AMAR CHITRA KATHA

VEER SAVARKAR

HE FOUGHT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM

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Script Subba Rao

Illustrations Ram Waeerkar

Editor Anant Pai

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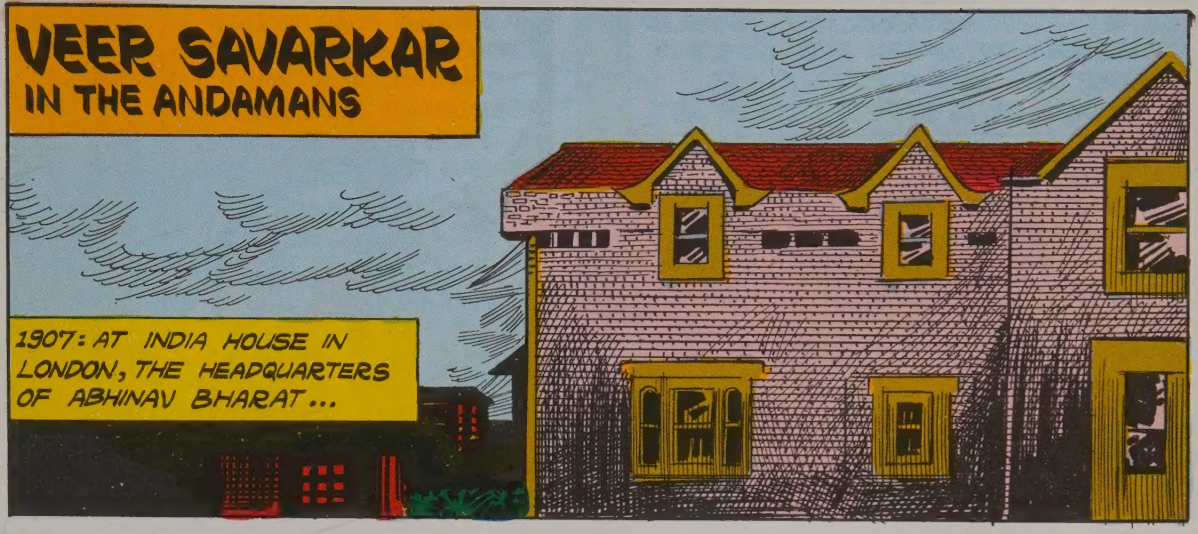
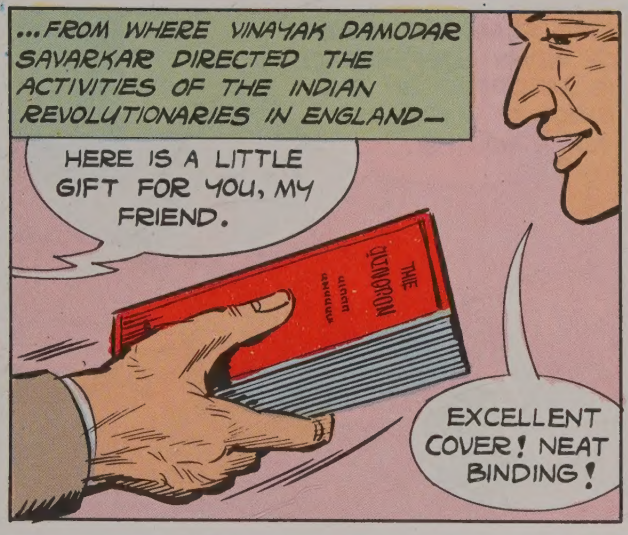
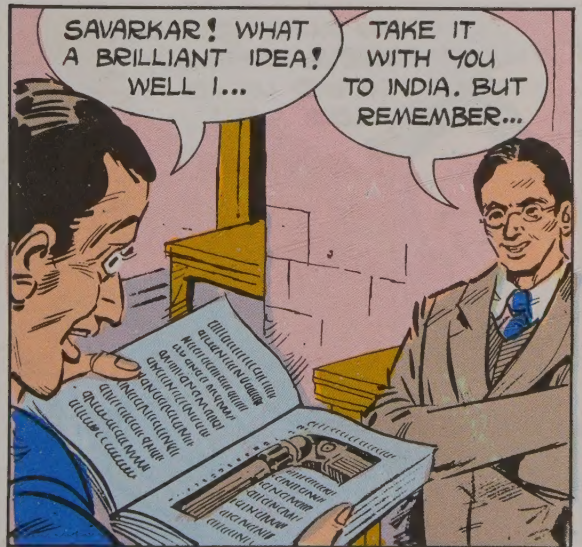
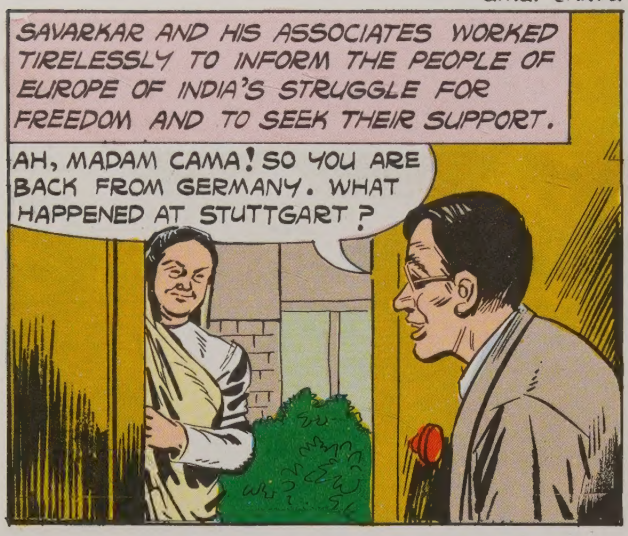
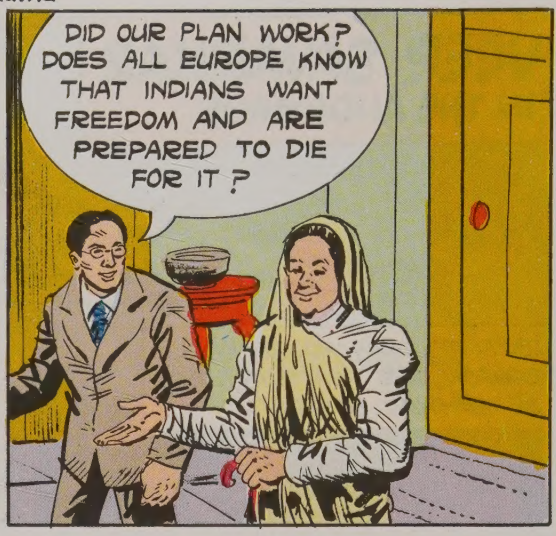
VEER SAVARKAR
IN THE ANDAMANS




...FROM WHERE VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR DIRECTED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES IN ENGLAND—
HERE IS A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU, MY FRIEND.
THE QUIXOTE
EXCELLENT COVER! NEAT BINDING!




SAVARKAR AND HIS ASSOCIATES WORKED TIRELESSLY TO INFORM THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE OF INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT.
AH, MADAM CAMA! SO YOU ARE BACK FROM GERMANY. WHAT HAPPENED AT STUTTGART?


DID OUR PLAN WORK? DOES ALL EUROPE KNOW THAT INDIANS WANT FREEDOM AND ARE PREPARED TO DIE FOR IT?

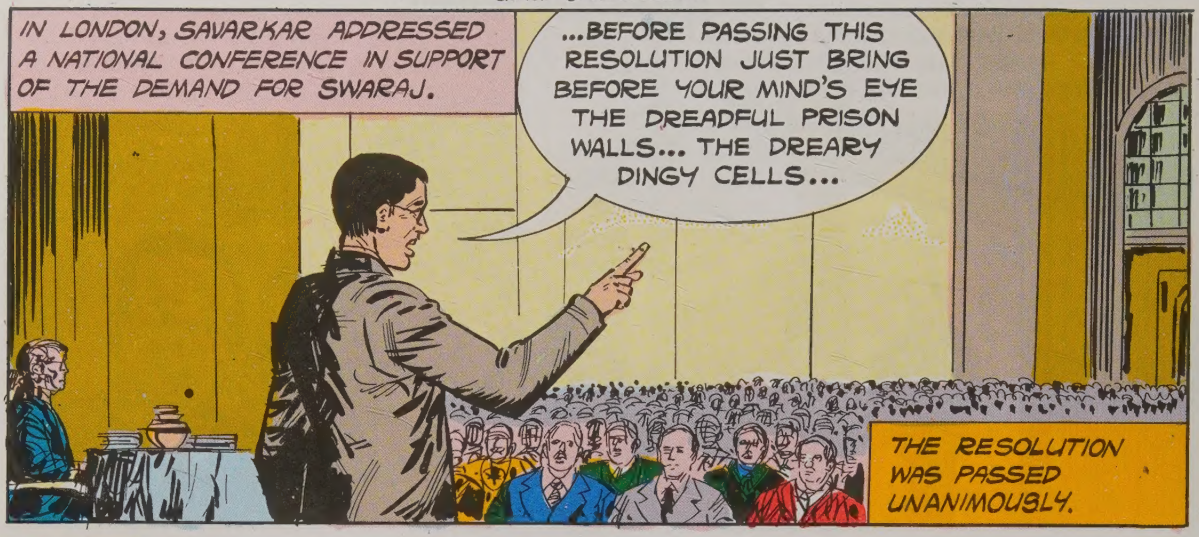
WELL... DELEGATES HAD COME FROM ALL OVER EUROPE TO ATTEND THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS. I UNFURLED THE FLAG AT THE CONFERENCE.

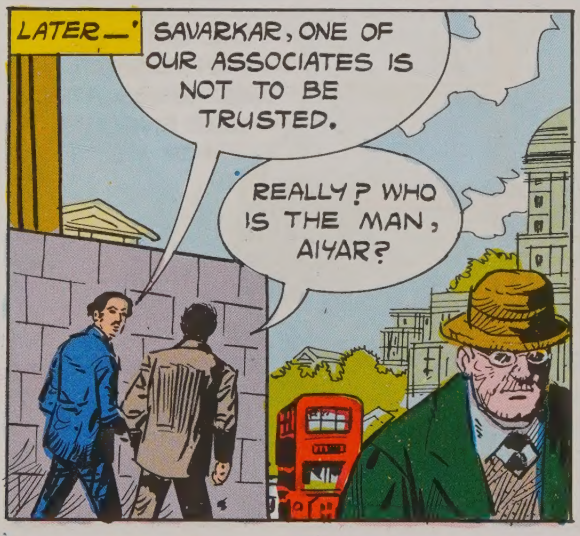
THIS FLAG, THE FLAG OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, IS SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF MARTYRED INDIAN YOUTHS.

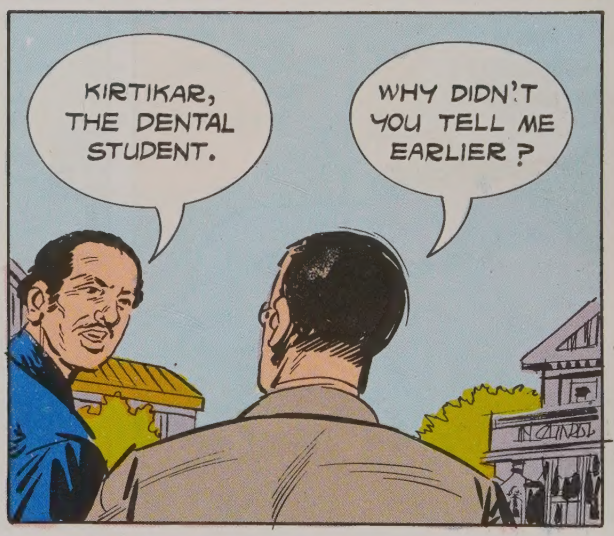
I CALL UPON YOU, GENTLEMEN, TO RISE AND SALUTE IT.

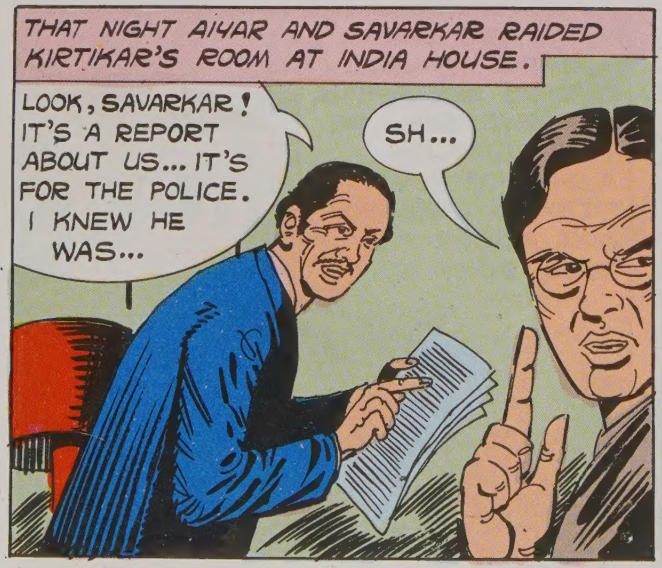
AND SAVARKAR, THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY STOOD UP AS ONE MAN!

SAVARKAR'S MAIN MISSION IN ENGLAND WAS TO FIND ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR HIS COUNTRYMEN IN INDIA.
BAPAT ! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK. WAS YOUR VISIT TO PARIS FRUITFUL ?
VERY ! I'VE LEARNT THE ART OF MAKING BOMBS.
I HAVE BROUGHT A GIFT FOR YOU.
BOMB MANUAL
THE ORIGINAL WAS IN RUSSIAN. IT WAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH FOR ME.
THIS IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED. NOW WE CAN SET UP BOMB FACTORIES IN INDIA.
BAPAT, MAKE SURE THAT THE MANUAL REACHES INDIA SAFELY. AND REMEMBER... WE MUST ESTABLISH A CHAIN OF BOMB FACTORIES THROUGHOUT INDIA BEFORE THE FIRST BOMB IS THROWN.


IN LONDON, SAVARKAR ADDRESSED A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMAND FOR SWARAJ.
...BEFORE PASSING THIS RESOLUTION JUST BRING BEFORE YOUR MIND'S EYE THE DREADFUL PRISON WALLS... THE DREARY DINGY CELLS...
THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.


LATER—
SAVARKAR, ONE OF OUR ASSOCIATES IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
REALLY? WHO IS THE MAN, AIYAR?


KIRTIKAR, THE DENTAL STUDENT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?

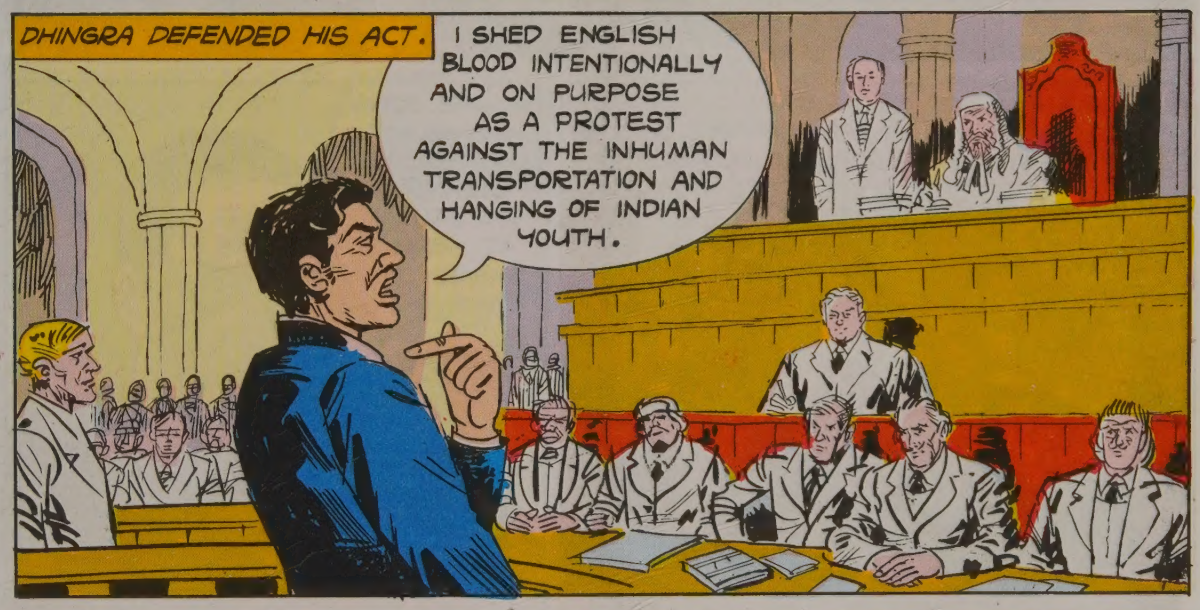

THAT NIGHT AIYAR AND SAVARKAR RAIDED KIRTIKAR'S ROOM AT INDIA HOUSE.
LOOK, SAVARKAR! IT'S A REPORT ABOUT US... IT'S FOR THE POLICE. I KNEW HE WAS...
SH...

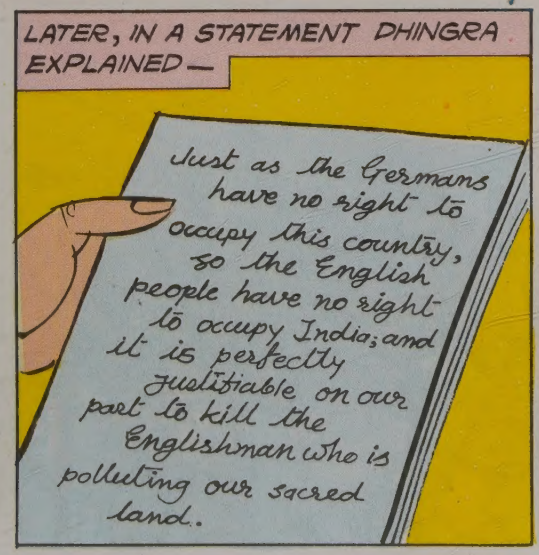
I HEAR FOOT-STEPS.

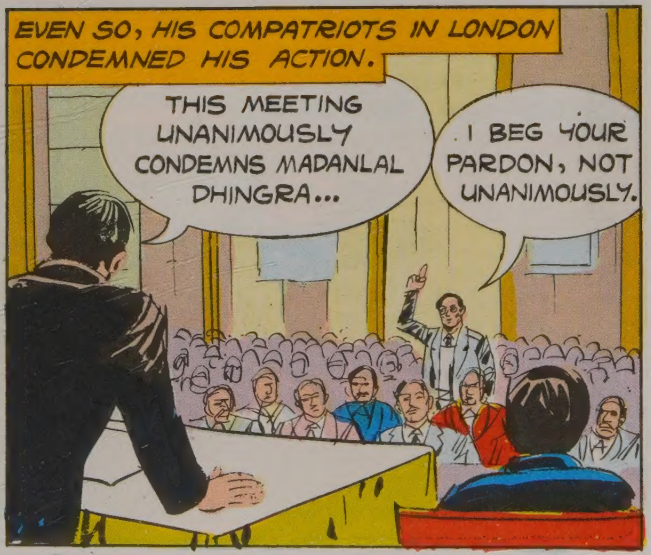
COME IN, KIRTIKAR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM, AIYAR?
WALK IN!
CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS?
I... HM... I... I
SPEAK UP!
KIRTIKAR SPOKE. HE HAD BEEN PLANTED AT INDIA HOUSE BY THE POLICE.
KIRTIKAR, YOU DO VALUE YOUR LIFE, DON'T YOU?
YES!
ALL RIGHT. HEREAFTER YOUR REPORTS WILL CONTAIN WHAT I DICTATE. IS THAT CLEAR?
IT IS.

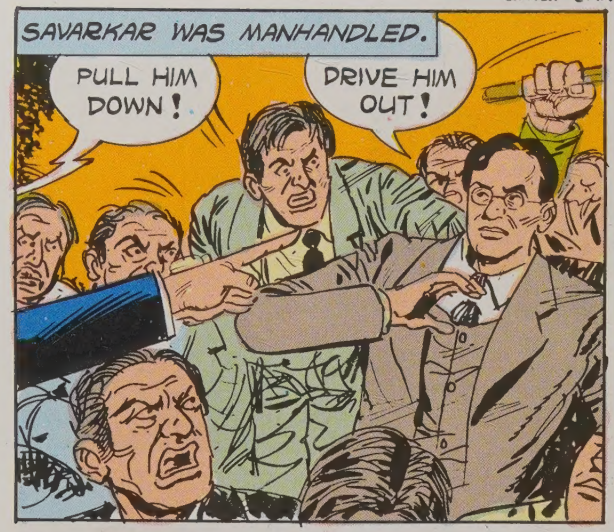
IN INDIA, SAVARKAR'S ELDER BROTHER, GANESHRAO, WAS ARRESTED. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED LONDON, MADANLAL DHINGRA — AN ENGINEERING STUDENT WHO WAS ALREADY SEETHING WITH ANGER AT THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN INDIA — CAME TO FIND OUT WHY.
WHAT WAS GANESHRAO'S CRIME, SAVARKAR?
HE PUBLISHED A BOOK OF PATRIOTIC POEMS.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ONE OF THEM, MADAN?
I WOULD!
PRAY, TELL, WAS POLITICAL FREEDOM EVER WON WITHOUT A WAR?
HE IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
VIOLENCE SHALL BE MET WITH VIOLENCE. THE OPPRESSION OF MY COUNTRYMEN WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED.

MADANLAL DHINGRA SHOT SIR CURZON WYLLIE, THE ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

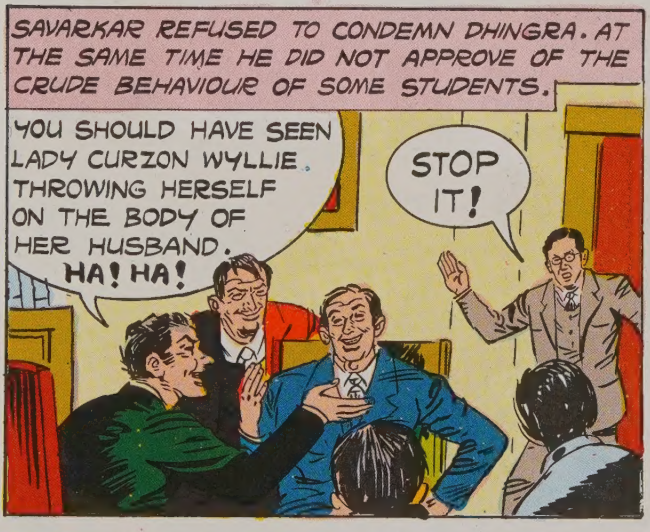

DHINGRA DEFENDED HIS ACT.
I SHED ENGLISH BLOOD INTENTIONALLY AND ON PURPOSE AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE INHUMAN TRANSPORTATION AND HANGING OF INDIAN YOUTH.


LATER, IN A STATEMENT DHINGRA EXPLAINED—
Just as the Germans have no right to occupy this country, so the English people have no right to occupy India; and it is perfectly justifiable on our part to kill the Englishman who is polluting our sacred land.

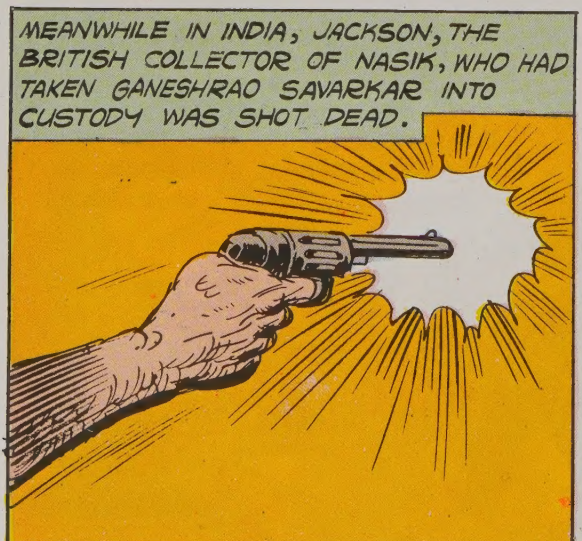

EVEN SO, HIS COMPATRIOTS IN LONDON CONDEMNED HIS ACTION.
THIS MEETING UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNS MADANLAL DHINGRA...
I BEG YOUR PARDON, NOT UNANIMOUSLY.


SAVARKAR WAS MANHANDLED.
PULL HIM DOWN!
DRIVE HIM OUT!

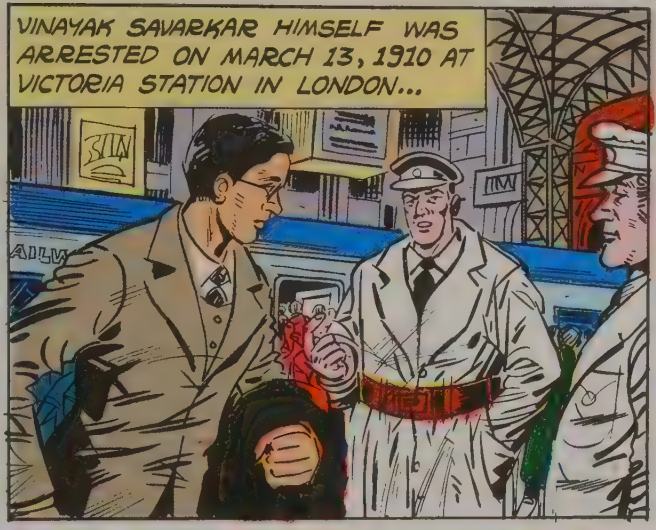
TAKE THIS!


SAVARKAR REFUSED TO CONDEMN DHINGRA. AT THE SAME TIME HE DID NOT APPROVE OF THE CRUDE BEHAVIOUR OF SOME STUDENTS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN LADY CURZON WYLLIE THROWING HERSELF ON THE BODY OF HER HUSBAND. HA! HA!
STOP IT!

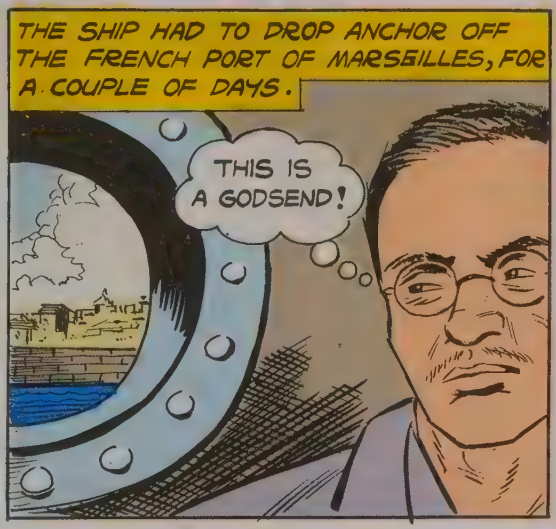
A WIFE SOBS HER HEART OUT FOR HER HUSBAND AND YOU LAUGH AT HER! SHAME ON YOU!


MEANWHILE IN INDIA, JACKSON, THE BRITISH COLLECTOR OF NASIK, WHO HAD TAKEN GANESHRAO SAVARKAR INTO CUSTODY WAS SHOT DEAD.

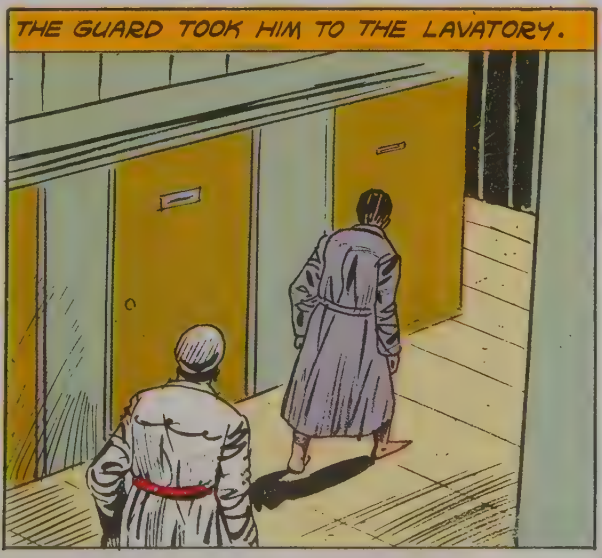
THE POLICE ARRESTED THE SUSPECTS.


VINAYAK SAVARKAR HIMSELF WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 13, 1910 AT VICTORIA STATION IN LONDON...

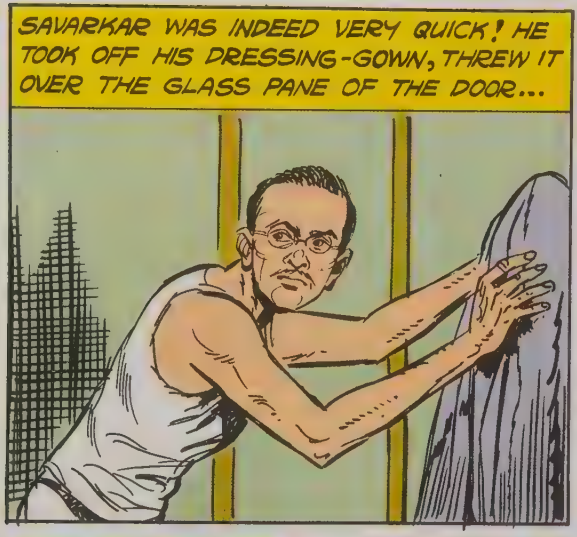
...AND DEPORTED TO INDIA. S.S. MOREA, THE STEAMER CARRYING SAVARKAR, SAILED FROM LONDON ON JULY 1, 1910.
S.S. MOREA


THE SHIP HAD TO DROP ANCHOR OFF THE FRENCH PORT OF MARSEILLES, FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
THIS IS A GODSEND!

I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE LAVATORY. MAY I?
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.

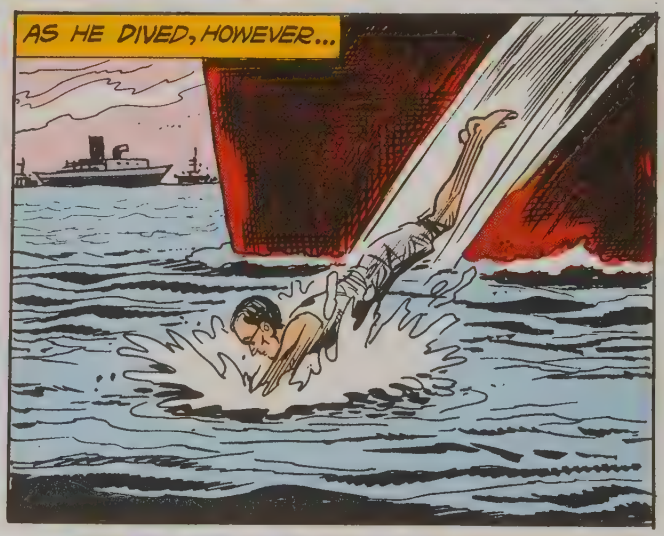

THE GUARD TOOK HIM TO THE LAVATORY.

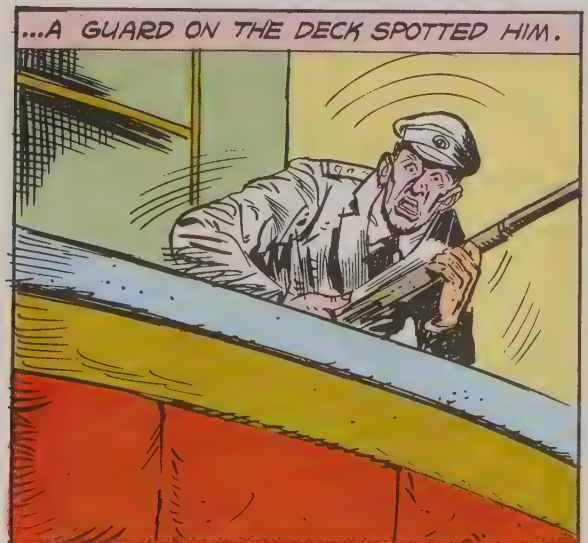
BE QUICK!

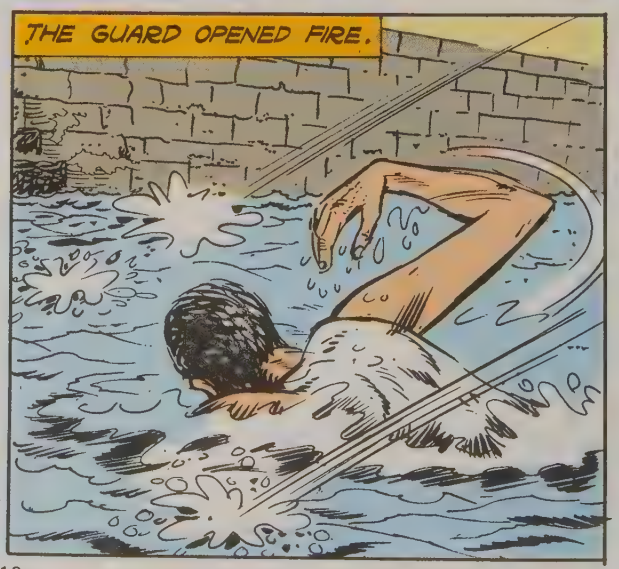

SAVARKAR WAS INDEED VERY QUICK! HE TOOK OFF HIS DRESSING-GOWN, THREW IT OVER THE GLASS PANE OF THE DOOR...

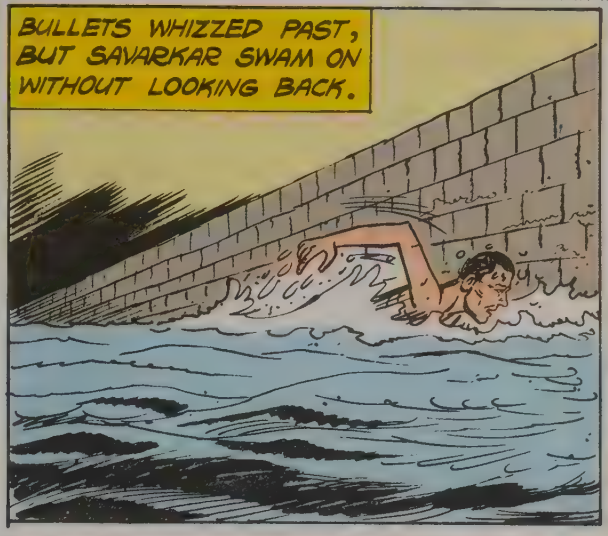
... JUMPED UP TO THE PORTHOLE IN THE LAVATORY...

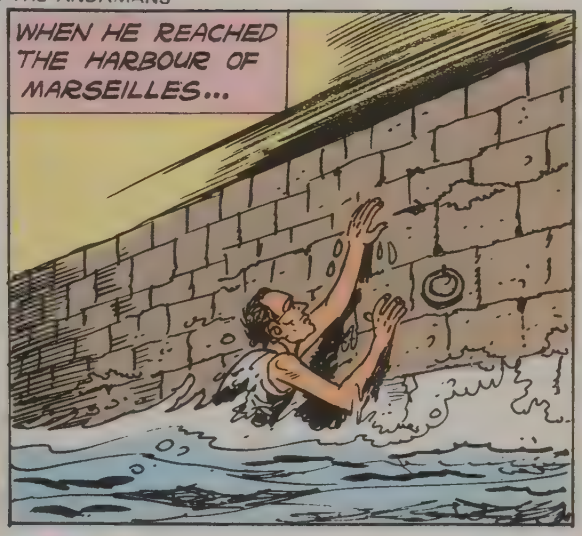
...AND CAME OUT.

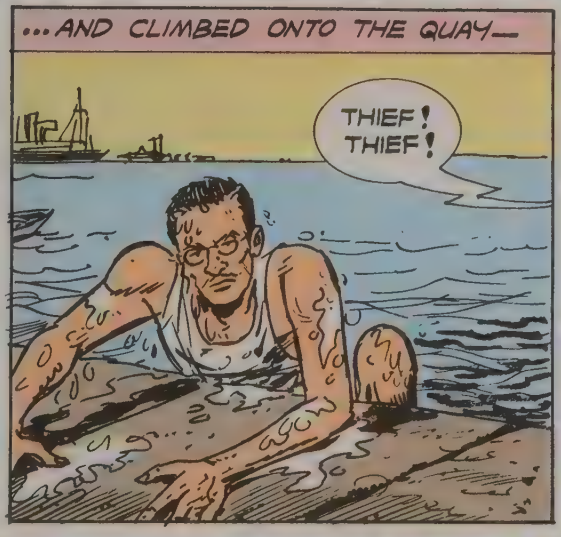

AS HE DIVED, HOWEVER...

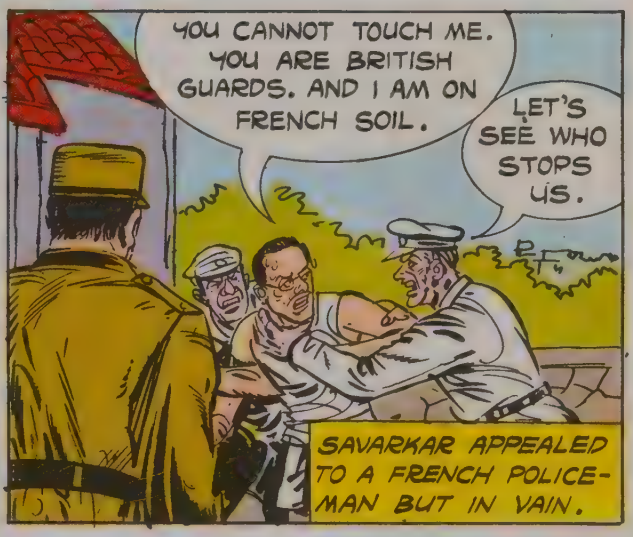

...A GUARD ON THE DECK SPOTTED HIM.

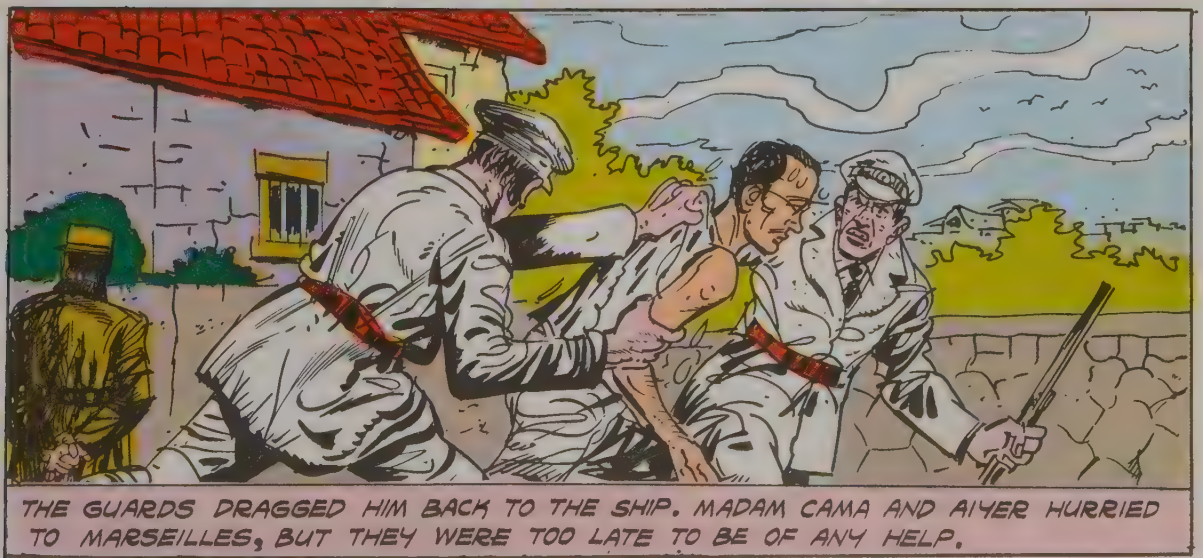

THE GUARD OPENED FIRE.

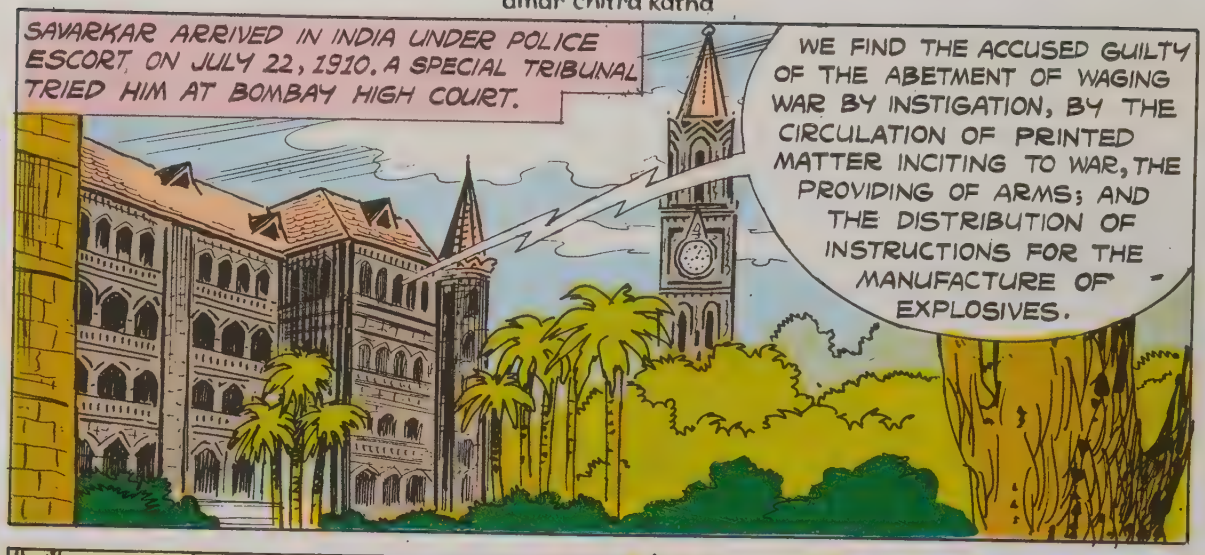

BULLETS WHIZZED PAST, BUT SAVARKAR SWAM ON WITHOUT LOOKING BACK.

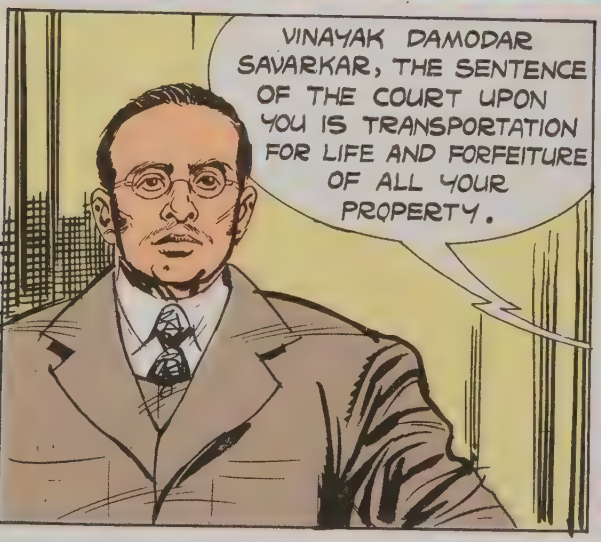

WHEN HE REACHED THE HARBOUR OF MARSEILLES...

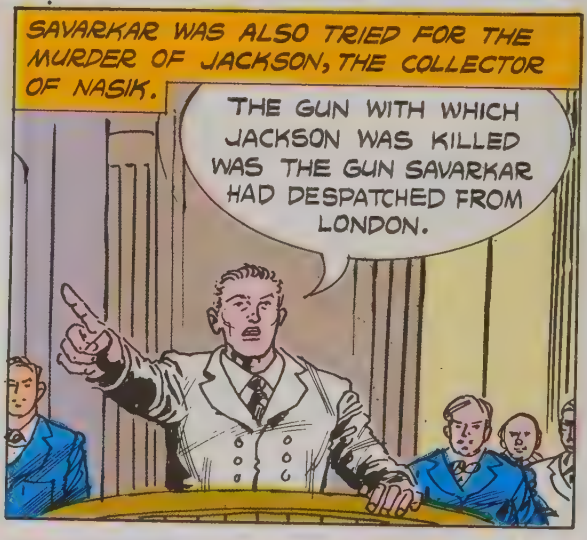

...AND CLIMBED ONTO THE QUAY—
THIEF! THIEF!

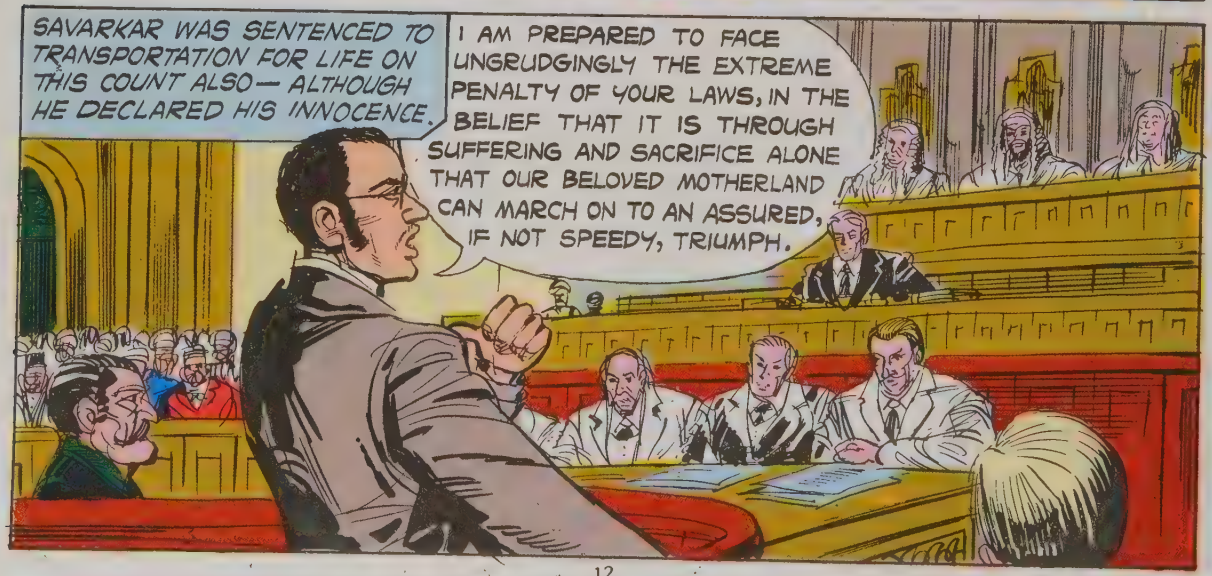

YOU CANNOT TOUCH ME. YOU ARE BRITISH GUARDS. AND I AM ON FRENCH SOIL.
LET'S SEE WHO STOPS US.
SAVARKAR APPEALED TO A FRENCH POLICE-MAN BUT IN VAIN.


THE GUARDS DRAGGED HIM BACK TO THE SHIP. MADAM CAMA AND AIYER HURRIED TO MARSEILLES, BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE TO BE OF ANY HELP.


SAVARKAR ARRIVED IN INDIA UNDER POLICE ESCORT, ON JULY 22, 1910. A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL TRIED HIM AT BOMBAY HIGH COURT.
WE FIND THE ACCUSED GUILTY OF THE ABETMENT OF WAGING WAR BY INSTIGATION, BY THE CIRCULATION OF PRINTED MATTER INCITING TO WAR, THE PROVIDING OF ARMS; AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVES.


VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR, THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT UPON YOU IS TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE AND FORFEITURE OF ALL YOUR PROPERTY.


SAVARKAR WAS ALSO TRIED FOR THE MURDER OF JACKSON, THE COLLECTOR OF NASIK.
THE GUN WITH WHICH JACKSON WAS KILLED WAS THE GUN SAVARKAR HAD DESPATCHED FROM LONDON.


SAVARKAR WAS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE ON THIS COUNT ALSO— ALTHOUGH HE DECLARED HIS INNOCENCE.
I AM PREPARED TO FACE UNGRUDGINGLY THE EXTREME PENALTY OF YOUR LAWS, IN THE BELIEF THAT IT IS THROUGH SUFFERING AND SACRIFICE ALONE THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHERLAND CAN MARCH ON TO AN ASSURED, IF NOT SPEEDY, TRIUMPH.

SAVARKAR WAS TAKEN TO DONGRI JAIL IN BOMBAY.

SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED ON FRENCH SOIL SEVERAL FRENCH NEWSPAPERS DEMANDED THAT SAVARKAR SHOULD BE RETURNED TO FRANCE. AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL HEARD THE APPEAL. SAVARKAR WAITED AT DONGRI FOR THE VERDICT.

MR. SAVARKAR, I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU.

THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL HAS GIVEN ITS JUDGMENT IN FAVOUR OF BRITAIN.

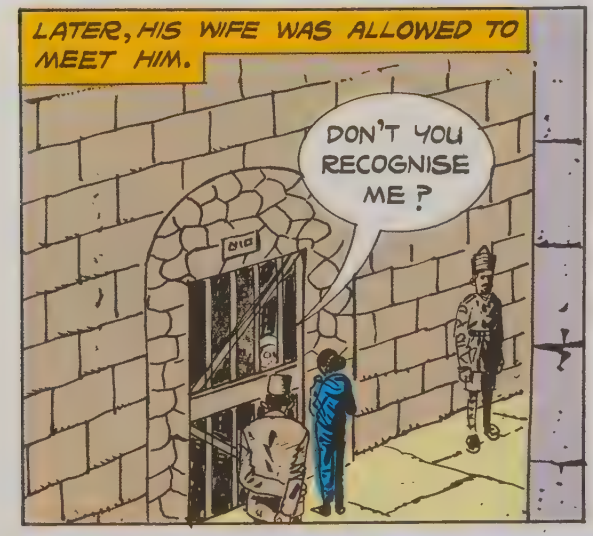
A SENTENCE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE MEANS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE ANDAMANS. YOU HAVE TO SERVE TWO SUCH SENTENCES — THAT MEANS FIFTY YEARS IN THE ANDAMANS.

THIS IS THE IRON PLATE YOU HAVE TO WEAR.

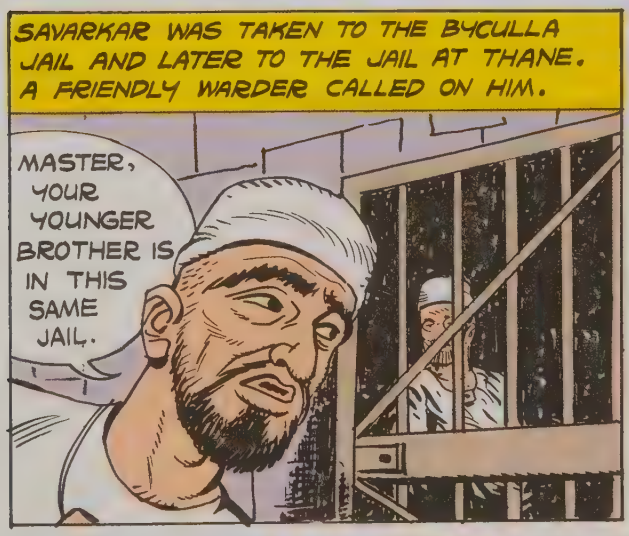
BC
121, 121A
109, 302
50 YEARS
24.12.1910
D
23.12.1960

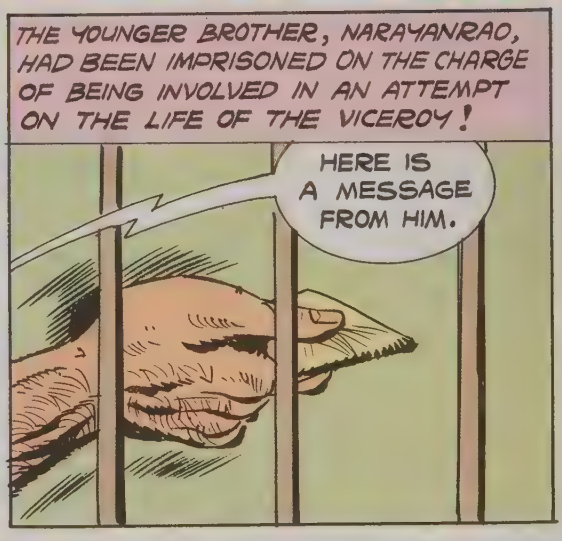
IS BRITISH RULE ITSELF GOING TO LAST FOR FIFTY YEARS?

THESE TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST PROPHETIC WORDS EVER SPOKEN BY A FREEDOM FIGHTER.

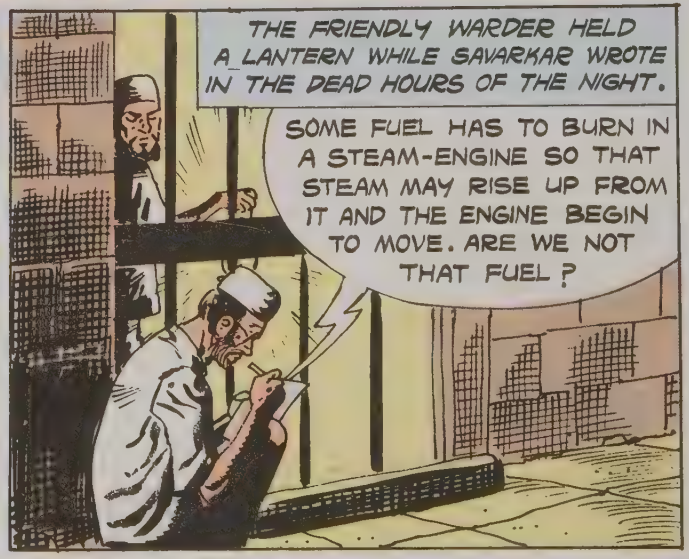

LATER, HIS WIFE WAS ALLOWED TO MEET HIM.
DON'T YOU RECOGNISE ME ?

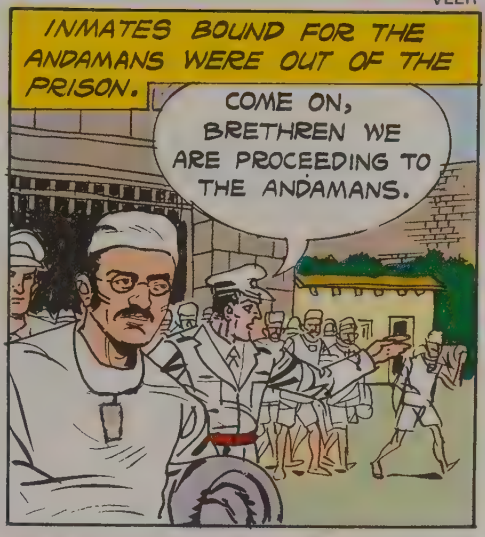
ONLY MY DRESS HAS CHANGED. I AM THE SAME.

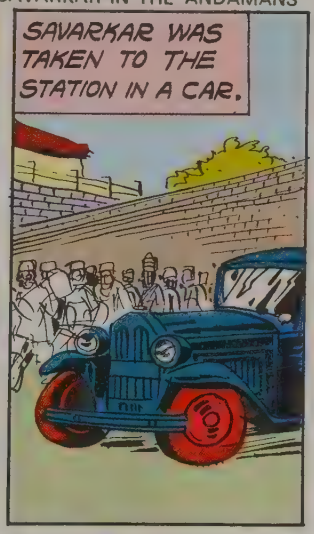

SAVARKAR WAS TAKEN TO THE BYCULLA JAIL AND LATER TO THE JAIL AT THANE. A FRIENDLY WARDER CALLED ON HIM.
MASTER, YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER IS IN THIS SAME JAIL.


THE YOUNGER BROTHER, NARAYANRAO, HAD BEEN IMPRISONED ON THE CHARGE OF BEING INVOLVED IN AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE VICEROY!
HERE IS A MESSAGE FROM HIM.

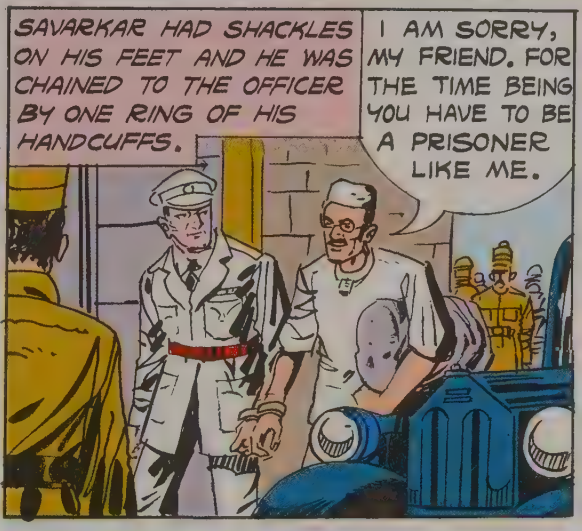
SAVARKAR READ THE MESSAGE IN THE DIM LIGHT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEND HIM A REPLY?
YES.


THE FRIENDLY WARDER HELD A LANTERN WHILE SAVARKAR WROTE IN THE DEAD HOURS OF THE NIGHT.
SOME FUEL HAS TO BURN IN A STEAM-ENGINE SO THAT STEAM MAY RISE UP FROM IT AND THE ENGINE BEGIN TO MOVE. ARE WE NOT THAT FUEL ?


INMATES BOUND FOR THE ANDAMANS WERE OUT OF THE PRISON.
COME ON, BRETHREN WE ARE PROCEEDING TO THE ANDAMANS.


SAVARKAR WAS TAKEN TO THE STATION IN A CAR.

IS HE A KING? WHY IS HE BEING TAKEN IN A CAR?
EVIDENTLY THE GOVERNMENT IS AFRAID OF HIM.


SAVARKAR HAD SHACKLES ON HIS FEET AND HE WAS CHAINED TO THE OFFICER BY ONE RING OF HIS HANDCUFFS.
I AM SORRY, MY FRIEND. FOR THE TIME BEING YOU HAVE TO BE A PRISONER LIKE ME.

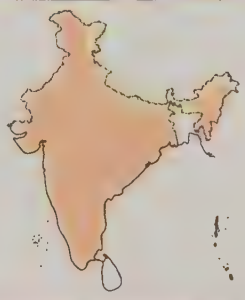
IF YOU REALLY CARE FOR ME, DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE AS YOU DID IN MARSEILLES.
I WON'T.

THE MADRAS-BOUND TRAIN LEFT THANE.
THE TRAIN IS DELIVERING ME TO THE ANDAMANS WITH THE RAPIDITY OF LIGHTNING.

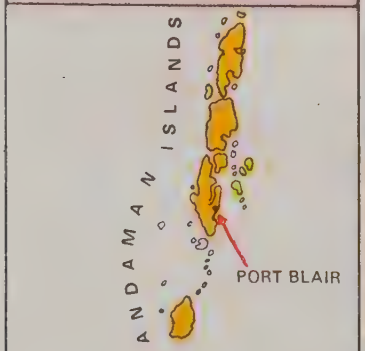
WILL IT TAKE ME BACK HOME WITH THE SAME SPEED?

KALA PANI
(Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

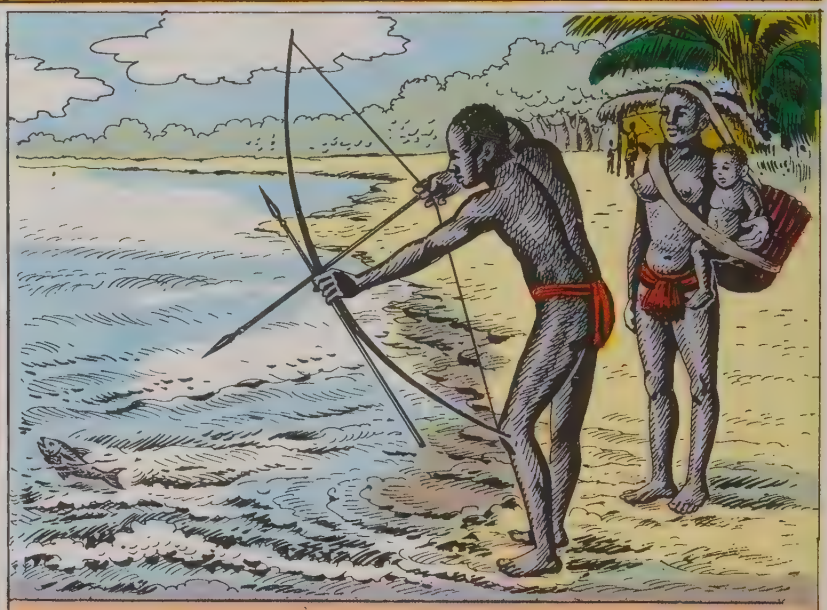
Script: Swarn Khandpur
Illustrations: S.K. Parab



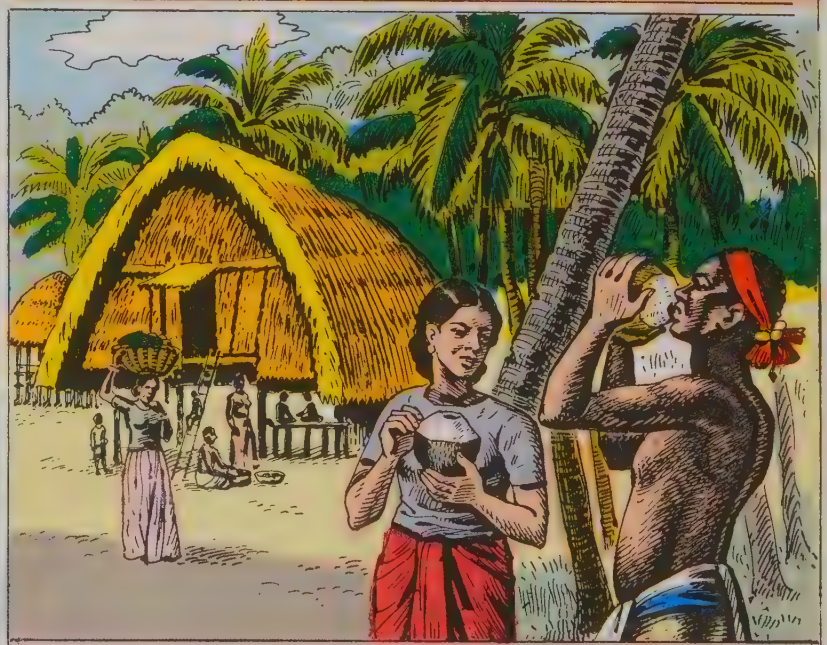
IN THE BAY OF BENGAL LIES A CLUSTER OF ISLANDS KNOWN AS THE BAY ISLANDS.



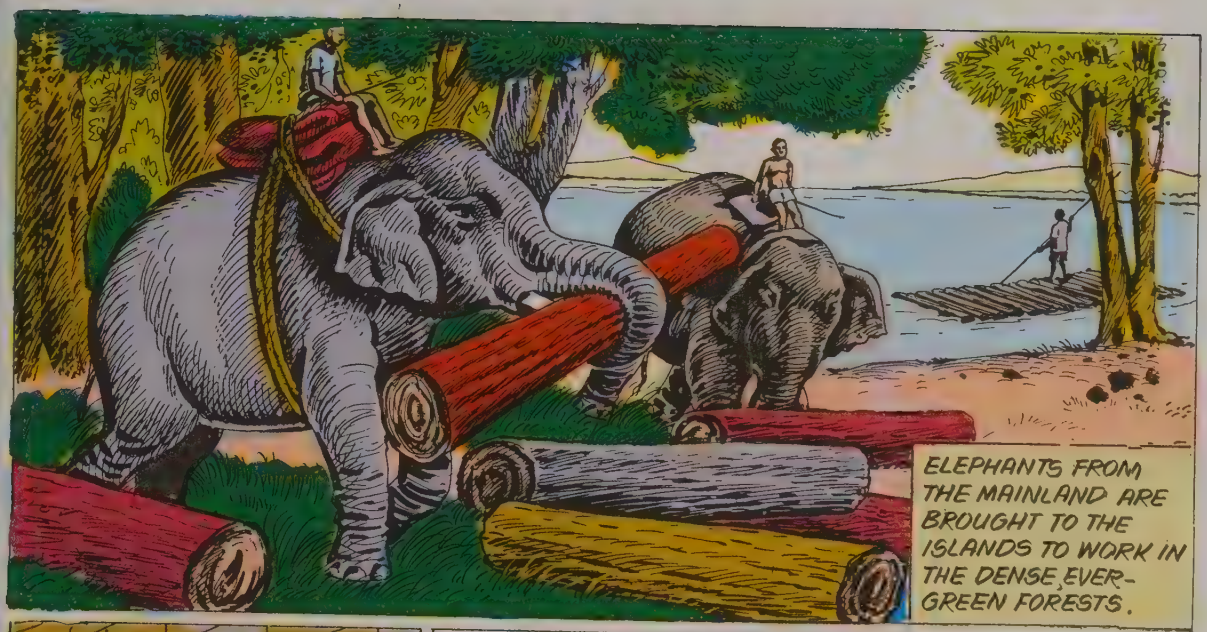
OVER THREE HUNDRED IN NUMBER, LUSH AND PICTURESQUE, THEY FORM THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ARCHIPELAGOS. THE TWO GROUPS OF ISLANDS FORM A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT AS A UNION TERRITORY AND ARE REACHED BY STEAMERS FROM CALCUTTA AND MADRAS. THE GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND IS THE SOUTHERN-MOST TIP OF INDIA.



TILL THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY, THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS WERE THE EXCLUSIVE HOME OF THE NEGRITOS, AN ANCIENT PYGMY RACE OF THE STONE AGE. IN 1971 THEY NUMBERED LESS THAN 500 AND ARE NOW THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION STILL IN THE HUNTING AND FOOD-GATHERING STAGE, THEY USE THE BOW FOR BOTH FISHING AND HUNTING.

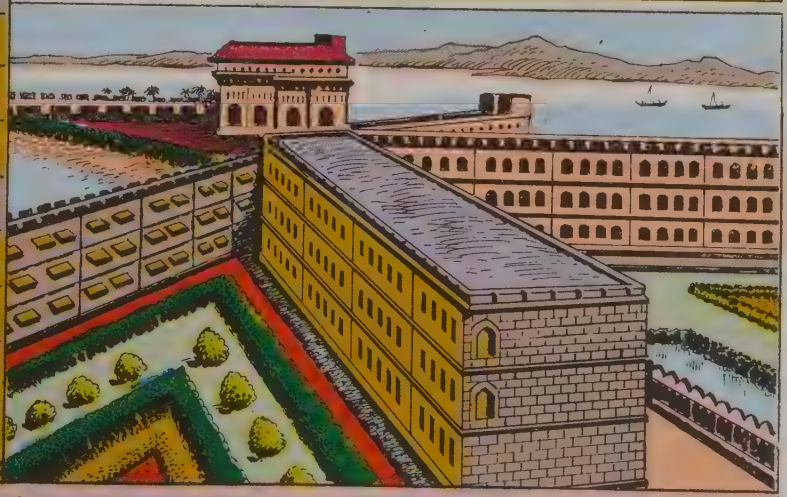


UNLIKE THE NEGRITOS, THE NICOBARESE ARE OF MONGOLOID STOCK. THEY PRACTISE FARMING AND CONSTRUCT THEIR HUTS ON STILTS IN THE GROVES OF WILD COCONUT PALMS.



ELEPHANTS FROM THE MAINLAND ARE BROUGHT TO THE ISLANDS TO WORK IN THE DENSE, EVER-GREEN FORESTS.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST TURTLES AND ROBBER CRABS ABOUND IN THE WATERS SURROUNDING THE ISLANDS.



PORT BLAIR, THE MAIN HARBOUR, IS THE CAPITAL OF THE ISLANDS. THE BRITISH USED THE ANDAMANS AS A PENAL COLONY. THEY BUILT THE GHASTLY CELLULAR JAIL WHERE THEY IMPRISONED NOT ONLY CRIMINALS BUT SEVERAL FREEDOM-FIGHTERS AS WELL. THE ARCHIPELAGO WAS ONCE THE MOST DREADED PLACE IN THE COUNTRY AND WAS REFERRED TO AS KALA PANI (BLACK WATERS). SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE NAMED THE ISLANDS SHAHEED AND SWARAJ — THE ISLANDS WHERE FREEDOM-FIGHTERS HAD BECOME MARTYRS SO THAT THE COUNTRY COULD WIN FREEDOM!

* AS SPELT ON THE WALL OF THE CELL

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

TENZING NORGAY WAS KNOWN AS THE TIGER OF THE SNOWS BECAUSE OF HIS PASSION FOR MOUNTAINS AND MOUNTAINEERING.

HIS STORY IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL, THE STORY OF A PERSON FROM A VERY HUMBLE BACKGROUND WHO DARED TO DREAM OF REACHING THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE WORLD. IT IS THE STORY OF HIS INDOMITABLE SPIRIT WHICH SAW HIM ATTEMPT EVEREST SEVERAL TIMES, BEFORE FINALLY REACHING ITS SUMMIT ALONG WITH EDMUND HILLARY ON 29 MAY 1953.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA TRACES THE LIFE OF THIS INSPIRING MOUNTAINEER WHO AFTER REACHING THE PEAK OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD, COULD ONLY FEEL HUMILITY AND ACCEPT COMPLETE SURRENDER TO THE MAGNIFICENCE OF NATURE.

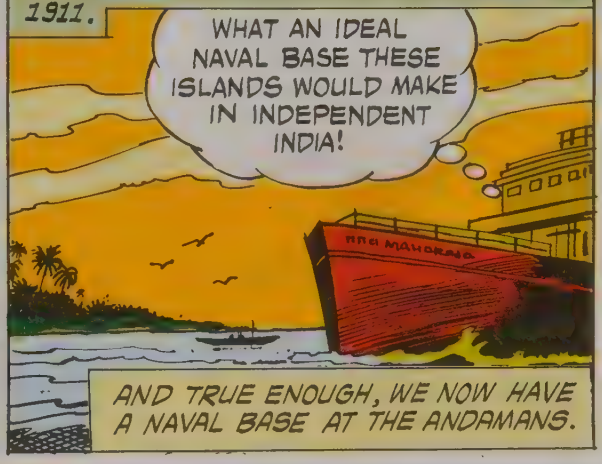
THE MAGIC LIVES ON!

Other New Titles

FROM MADRAS SAVARKAR AND THE OTHER PRISONERS WERE TAKEN TO THE ANDAMANS IN THE SHIP S.S. MAHARAJA.

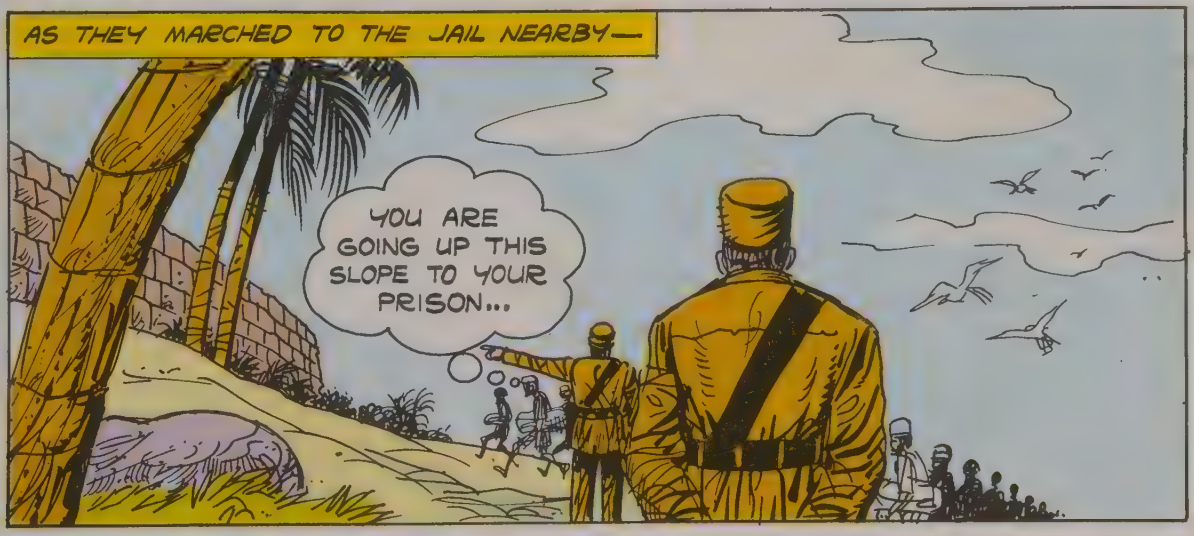
THE SHIP REACHED PORT BLAIR, THE CAPITAL OF THE ANDAMANS, ON JULY 4, 1911.

WHAT AN IDEAL NAVAL BASE THESE ISLANDS WOULD MAKE IN INDEPENDENT INDIA!

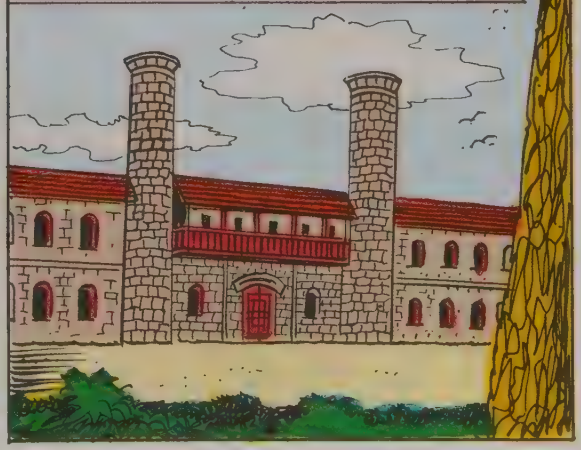


AND TRUE ENOUGH, WE NOW HAVE A NAVAL BASE AT THE ANDAMANS.

AS THEY MARCHED TO THE JAIL NEARBY—

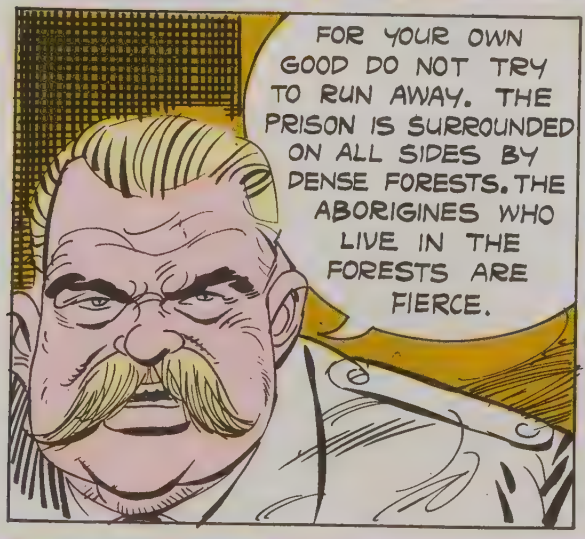


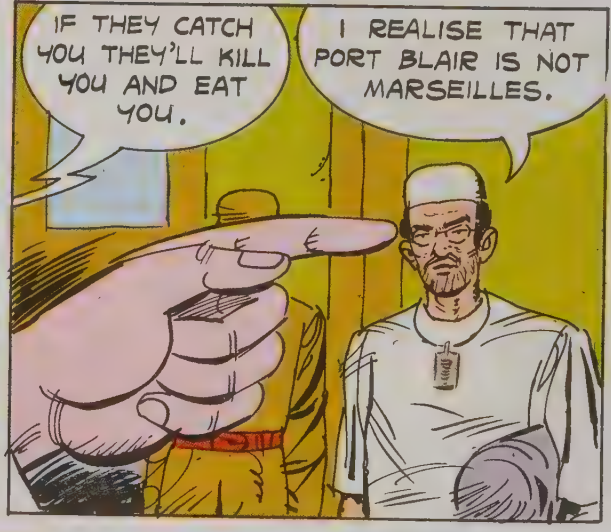
SAVARKAR WENT IN. THE GATE WAS SHUT BEHIND HIM. HE FELT HE HAD ENTERED THE JAWS OF DEATH.



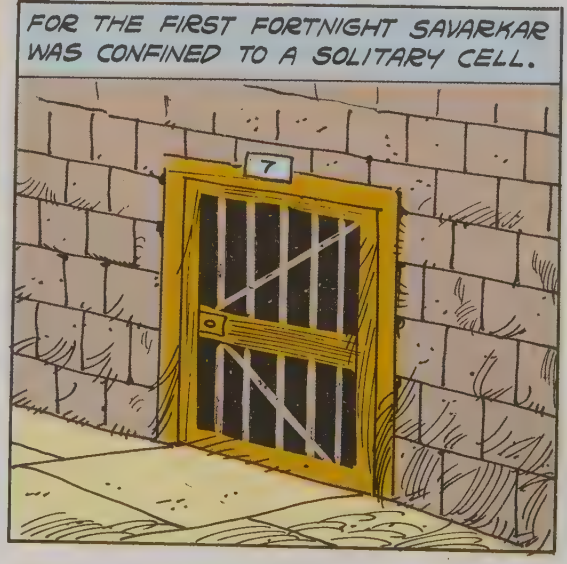
THE JAILOR WAS ONE MR. BARRIE.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE AT MARSEILLES?
YES.

WHY DID YOU DO IT?
TO FREE MYSELF.


FOR YOUR OWN GOOD DO NOT TRY TO RUN AWAY. THE PRISON IS SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY DENSE FORESTS. THE ABORIGINES WHO LIVE IN THE FORESTS ARE FIERCE.


IF THEY CATCH YOU THEY'LL KILL YOU AND EAT YOU.
I REALISE THAT PORT BLAIR IS NOT MARSEILLES.

TAKE HIM TO HIS CELL.


FOR THE FIRST FORTNIGHT SAVARKAR WAS CONFINED TO A SOLITARY CELL.
7

THE FIRST JOB HE WAS GIVEN WAS THE WORK OF CHOPPING THE BARK OF COCONUT TREES, WITH A CHISEL AND A HEAVY WOODEN MALLET.
LATER...
SAVARKAR, YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A PROMOTION. YOU WILL NOW WORK ON THE OIL MILL.
WORKING THE OIL CRUSHER WAS A STRENUOUS, TEDIOUS, AND FATIGUING TASK.
HIS BODY ACHED. HE FELT DIZZY.
WATER!
WATER!
A PRISONER IS GIVEN ONLY TWO CUPS OF WATER. YOU HAVE ALREADY CONSUMED THREE! AND YOU ASK FOR MORE!!!
GET ON WITH THE WORK!

WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR LUNCH SAVARKAR LEFT THE MILL WITH A SIGH.
HARDLY HAD HE EATEN TWO OR THREE MORSELS WHEN—
HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED YET? HURRY UP!
WITHOUT RESTING, SAVARKAR AND THE OTHERS WENT BACK TO THE MILL.
WHEN IT WAS EVENING—
THE OIL YOU HAVE EXTRACTED DOES NOT COMPLETE YOUR QUOTA.
YOU WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AFTER DINNER.
SO, LATE INTO THE NIGHT THE PRISONER SLOGGED, WHILE THE JAILOR SNORED.

SAVARKAR WAS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE AND WRITE ONE LETTER A YEAR FROM TH. ANDAMANS. THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM ONE OF HIS LETTERS TO HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, DR. N. D. SAVARKAR—

CELLULAR JAIL
9—3—1915
PORT BLAIR

BEST BELOVED BAL,

ONCE AGAIN, MY PEN HASTENS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER RECEIVED SOME 7-8 MONTHS AGO. TO HAVE A LETTER FROM YOU IS LIKE SEEING YOU.

AS FAR AS OUR DAILY LIFE IS CONCERNED, WELL, IT GOES ON IN THE SAME EVEN WAY AS IT DID LAST YEAR. IN A PRISON WHAT HAPPENS ON THE FIRST DAY HAPPENS ALWAYS—IF NOTHING WORSE HAPPENS. IN FACT IT SEEMS TO BE THE ESSENCE OF PRISON DISCIPLINE TO AVOID ALL NOVELTY, ALL CHANGE. LIKE SPECIMENS AND CURIOS IN A MUSEUM HERE WE ARE EACH EXACTLY IN THE SAME PLACE AND SAME POSITION, BOTTLED AND LABELLED WITH THE SAME NUMBERS WITH MORE OR LESS DUST ABOUT US.

WHAT I WROTE TO YOU IN MY LAST LETTER MAY SERVE THE PURPOSE OF DESCRIPTION AS LONG AS I AM HERE. WE GET UP EARLY, WORK HARD, EAT PUNCTUALLY— AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE SAME PLACE AND THE SAME AMOUNT AND KIND OF FOOD PREPARED WITH THE SAME MATCHLESS PRISON-SKILL AND HYGIENE. ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT PRISONERS ARE NOT FREE TO DO OR SAY WHAT THEY WILL, YET, TO THE CREDIT OF THE JAIL AUTHORITIES, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT EVERY ONE IS ABSOLUTELY FREE TO DREAM WHAT HE LIKES. AND I ASSURE YOU I TAKE THE FULLEST ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONCESSION. ALMOST EVERY NIGHT, I TELL YOU, I BREAK JAIL AND GO ROMPING THROUGH DALE AND DOWN AND TOWER AND TOWN, TILL I FIND ONE OF YOU—SOMEONE WHO SOMEWHERE HAD BEEN HELD CLOSE TO MY BOSOM! EVERY NIGHT I DO IT BUT MY BENEFICENT JAILORS TAKE NO NOTICE OF IT. YOU HAVE ONLY TO WAKE UP IN THE JAIL, THAT IS ALL THEY SAY.

YOUR OWN BROTHER
TATYA

ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS TURNING THE MILL —

END IT ALL! TO LIVE IS FUTILE! TO DIE IS HONOUR!

THE IDEA OF SUICIDE BEGAN TO HAUNT HIM. BUT REASON ULTIMATELY PREVAILED.

TO BEAR AND ENDURE TORTURE IS ALSO PART OF NATIONAL WORK. STAY ON AND FIGHT, FIGHT AT BAY IF YOU MUST.

HOWEVER, NOT ALL HAD THE STRENGTH OF SAVARKAR. INDU BHUSHAN ROY COMMITTED SUICIDE; ULLASKAR DUTT WENT MAD AND A KIND WORD WAS ENOUGH TO MOVE UPENDRANATH BANERJEE TO TEARS.

IT WAS LEFT TO SAVRKAR TO CHEER UP THE SILENT, SUFFERING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

DON'T DESPAIR, FRIENDS. DON'T GIVE UP. OUR SUFFERINGS WILL BE FRUITFUL IN THE END.

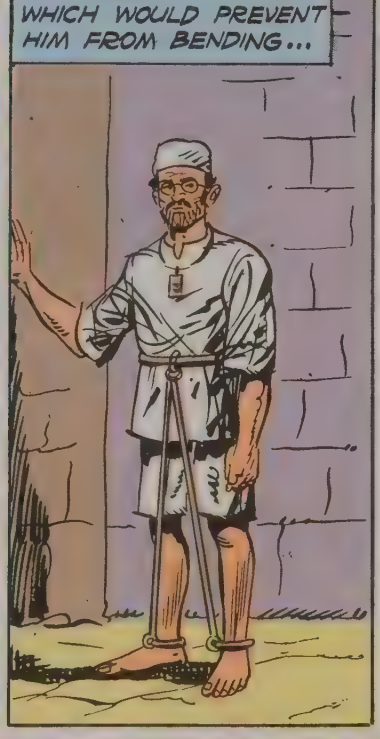
FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL MAKE A PILIGRIMAGE TO THIS PLACE SAYING— HERE DWELT FOR YEARS THE PATRIOTS OF OUR LAND, THE FLESH OF OUR FLESH, THE SPIRIT OF OUR SPIRIT THAT FELL IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

SAVARKAR WAS SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS KINDS OF TORTURE IN THE CELLULAR JAIL.

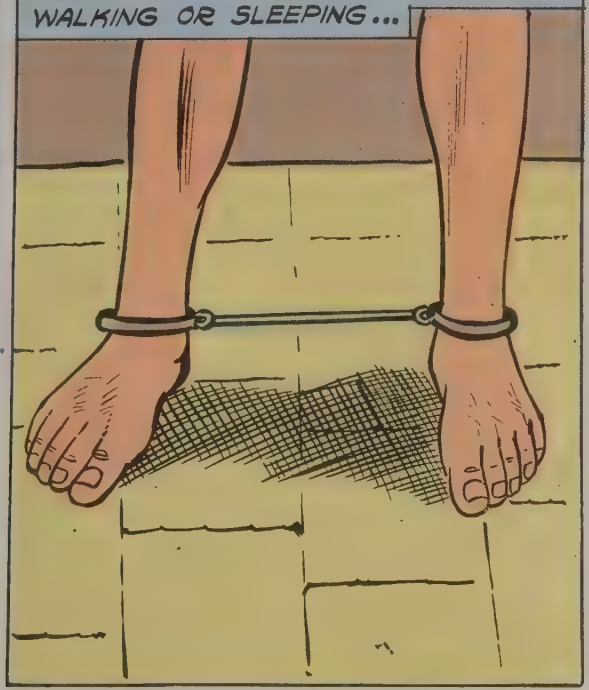
HE WAS PUT IN CHAINS...

...IN BACK HANDCUFFS...

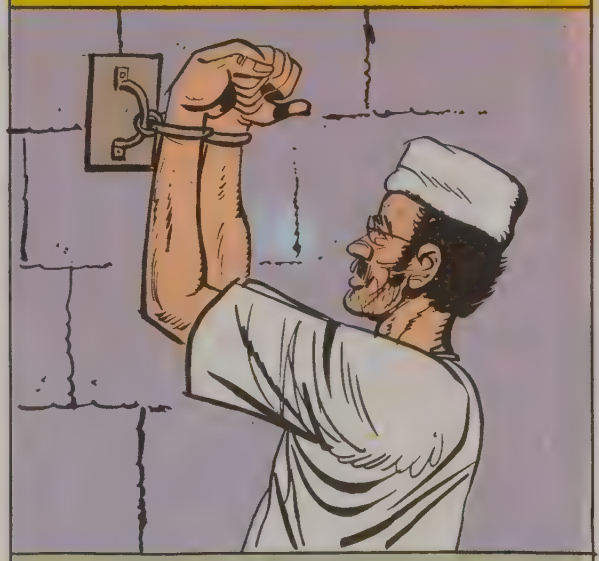
...IN BARE FETTERS WHICH WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM BENDING...



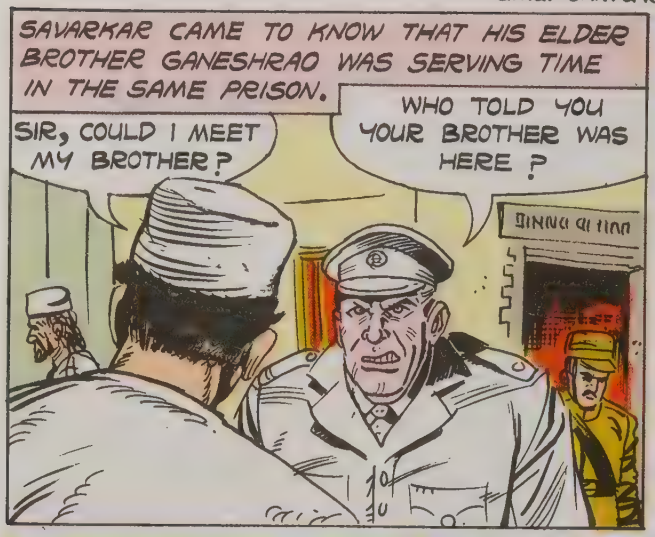
...IN CROSS-BAR FETTERS WHICH COMPELLED HIM TO KEEP HIS FEET APART WHILE STANDING, SITTING, WALKING OR SLEEPING...



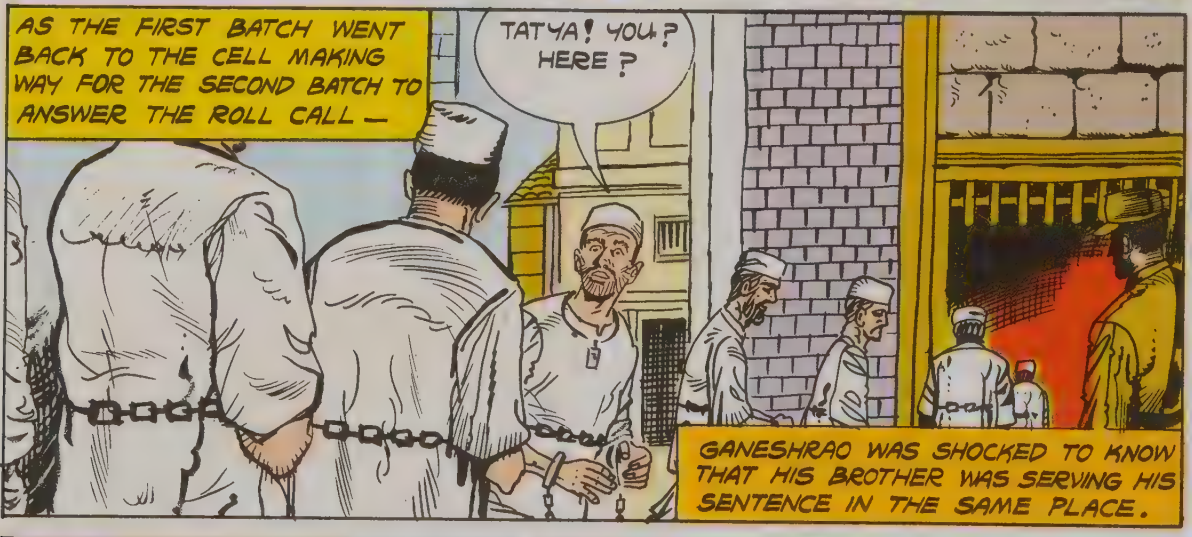
...AND HE WAS MADE TO STAND WITH HIS HANDS LOCKED UP TO A HOOK IN THE WALL MEASURING HIS HEIGHT.

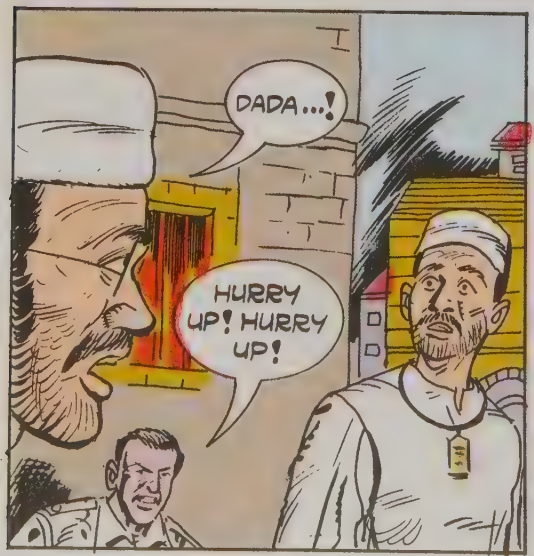


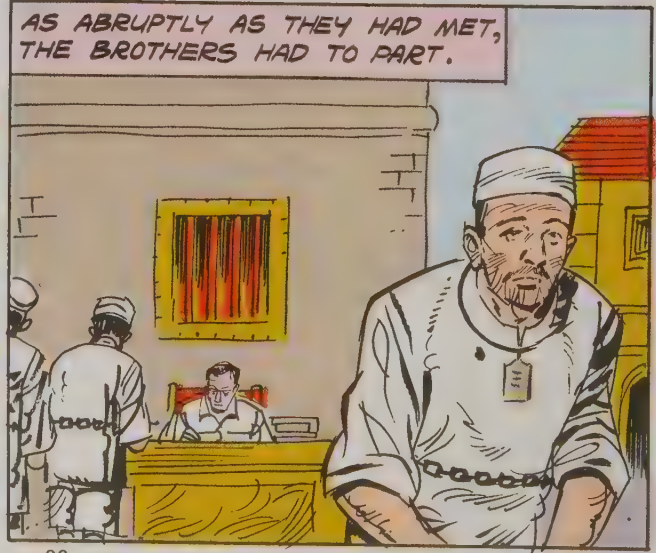
YET HE BORE IT ALL WITH EQUANIMITY, WITH HIS MIND VERY ALERT, COMPOSING POEMS AND MEMORISING THE POEMS COMPOSED.

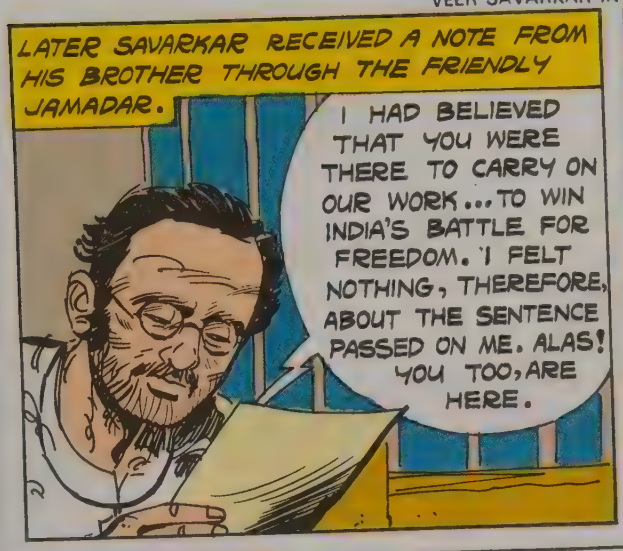

SAVARKAR CAME TO KNOW THAT HIS ELDER BROTHER GANESHRAO WAS SERVING TIME IN THE SAME PRISON.
SIR, COULD I MEET MY BROTHER?
WHO TOLD YOU YOUR BROTHER WAS HERE ?

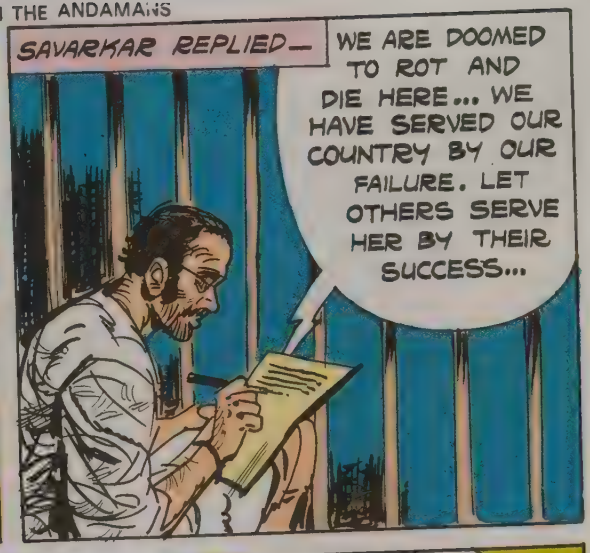
FINALLY, A KIND-HEARTED JAMADAR AGREED TO HELP.
NOW YOUR BROTHER'S BATCH IS ANSWERING THE ROLL CALL. YOURS WILL BE THE NEXT BATCH.


AS THE FIRST BATCH WENT BACK TO THE CELL MAKING WAY FOR THE SECOND BATCH TO ANSWER THE ROLL CALL —
TATYA! YOU? HERE?
GANESHRAO WAS SHOCKED TO KNOW THAT HIS BROTHER WAS SERVING HIS SENTENCE IN THE SAME PLACE.


DADA...!
HURRY UP! HURRY UP!

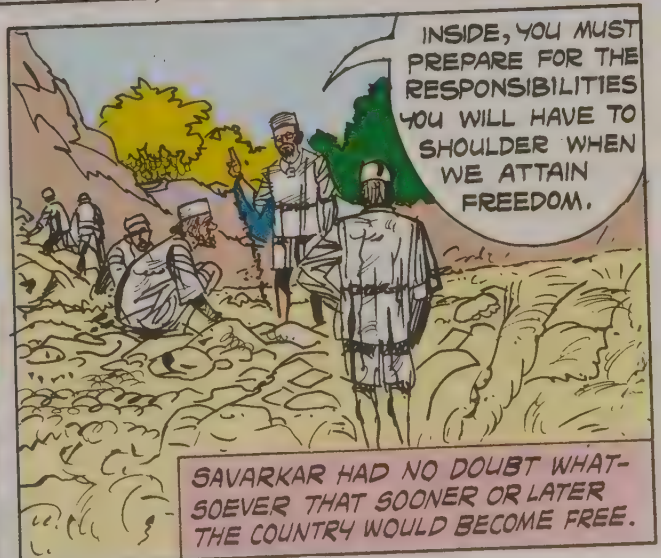

AS ABRUPTLY AS THEY HAD MET, THE BROTHERS HAD TO PART.


LATER SAVARKAR RECEIVED A NOTE FROM HIS BROTHER THROUGH THE FRIENDLY JAMADAR.
I HAD BELIEVED THAT YOU WERE THERE TO CARRY ON OUR WORK... TO WIN INDIA'S BATTLE FOR FREEDOM. I FELT NOTHING, THEREFORE, ABOUT THE SENTENCE PASSED ON ME. ALAS! YOU TOO, ARE HERE.


SAVARKAR REPLIED—
WE ARE DOOMED TO ROT AND DIE HERE... WE HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY BY OUR FAILURE. LET OTHERS SERVE HER BY THEIR SUCCESS...

TO THIS END SAVARKAR BEGAN EDUCATING HIS FELLOW POLITICAL PRISONERS.
BUT SAVARKAR, I HAVE NO USE FOR EDUCATION... I BELIEVE IN ACTION.
ASK ME TO THROW A BOMB, I WILL. ASK ME TO READ A BOOK, I'LL RUN AWAY.

OUTSIDE THE PRISON, YOU FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM.


INSIDE, YOU MUST PREPARE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU WILL HAVE TO SHOULDER WHEN WE ATTAIN FREEDOM.
SAVARKAR HAD NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT SOONER OR LATER THE COUNTRY WOULD BECOME FREE.

WHEN OUR COUNTRY BECOMES FREE WE WILL NEED ECONOMISTS, ADMINISTRATORS AND STATESMEN.
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! BUT WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?
AND WHO WILL GIVE US PAPER AND PEN?
WE'LL TRY TO GET THE BOOKS. FOR THE TIME BEING WE'LL USE THE PRISON WALLS.
PRISON WALLS?
YES. MY FRIENDS, TOMORROW WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR CELLS. WHOEVER MOVES INTO CELL 7 PLEASE LOOK AT THE WALL.
THE FOLLOWING DAY A PRISONER WHO MOVED INTO CELL 7 LOOKED AT THE WALL.
MY GOD! IT IS FILLED WITH WRITING!
SAVARKAR HAD SCRATCHED OUT A COMPLETE LESSON ON THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY.

A NEW ARRIVAL IN THE ANDAMANS, THROWN INTO A CELL, WAS LONELY, SAD AND DEJECTED. HE HAPPENED TO LOOK AT THE WALL.

FOR THY SAKE DEATH IS LIFE, WITHOUT THEE LIFE IS DEATH.

THAT WAS THE POEM SCRIBBLED BY SAVARKAR BEFORE HE WAS REMOVED TO ANOTHER CELL. IT WAS A POEM ADDRESSED TO MOTHER INDIA.

YES! O MOTHER, WHO WILL DARE INSULT THEE IN THE WORLD? WE WILL GIVE THEE A BATH OF HIS BLOOD.

SAVARKAR AND HIS FRIENDS BEGAN TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH "TELEGRAPH!" THEIR TELEGRAPH CONSISTED OF SOUNDS MADE BY THE TINGLING NOISE OF THE FETTERS THAT BOUND THEM.

SAVARKAR AND HIS FRIENDS CONTINUED TO TOIL. ONE DAY, NANI GOPAL, A BENGALI REVOLUTIONARY, STRUCK WORK.

NO. I WON'T RUN THE MILL.

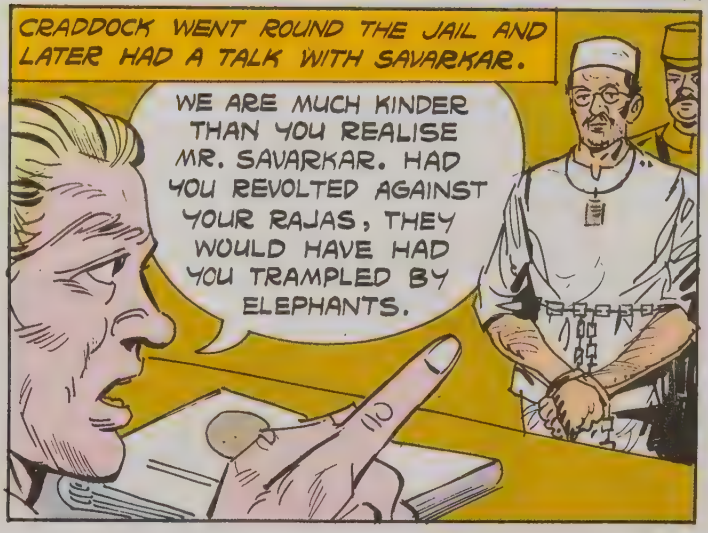
WHAT!

NANI GOPAL WANTED TO BE RECOGNISED AS A POLITICAL PRISONER. HE REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. WHEN PUNISHED, HE REFUSED TO PUT ON CLOTHES.

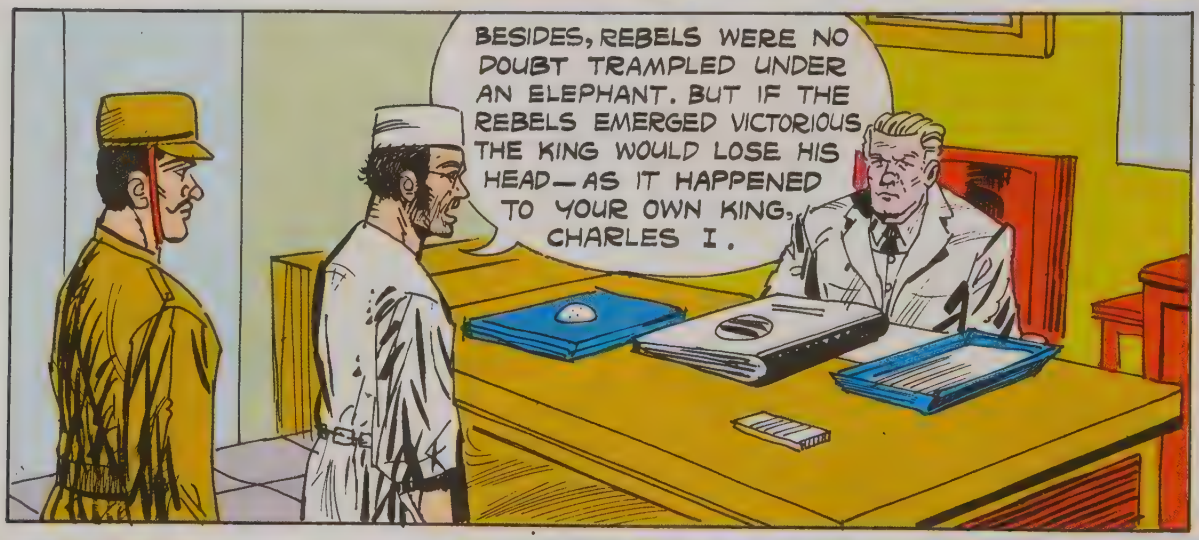
MEANWHILE, SOME PRISONERS HAD MANAGED TO SMUGGLE OUT LETTERS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE ILL TREATMENT METED OUT TO THEM. THESE LETTERS REACHED THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED THEM. THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPELLED TO TAKE NOTICE.

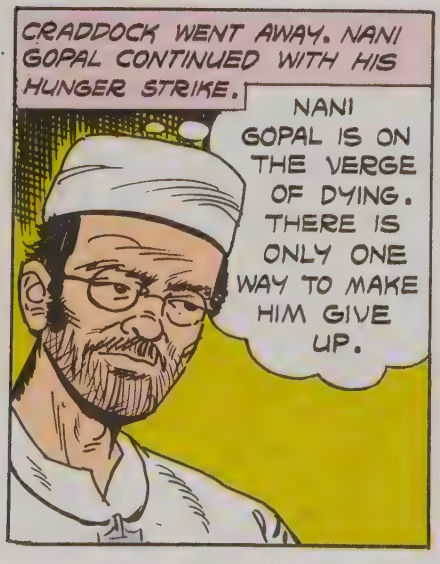
SAVARKAR, SIR REGINALD CRADDOCK IS COMING TO VISIT THE JAIL.

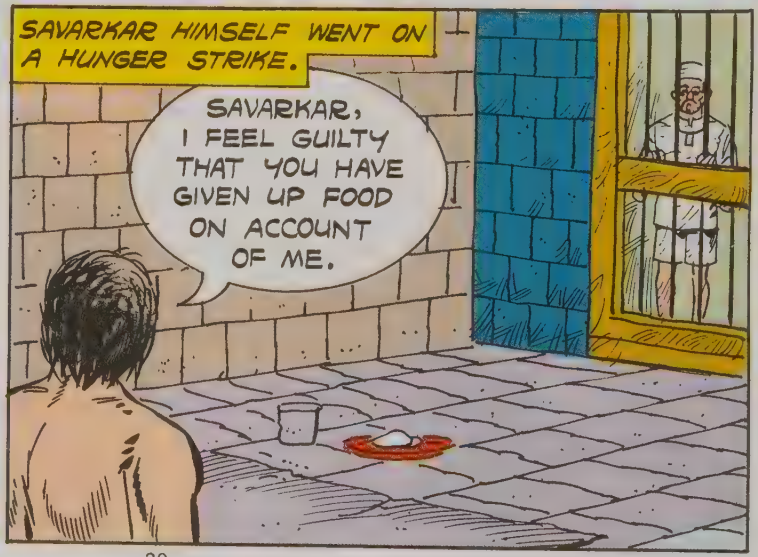
IT'S HIGH TIME HE DID.

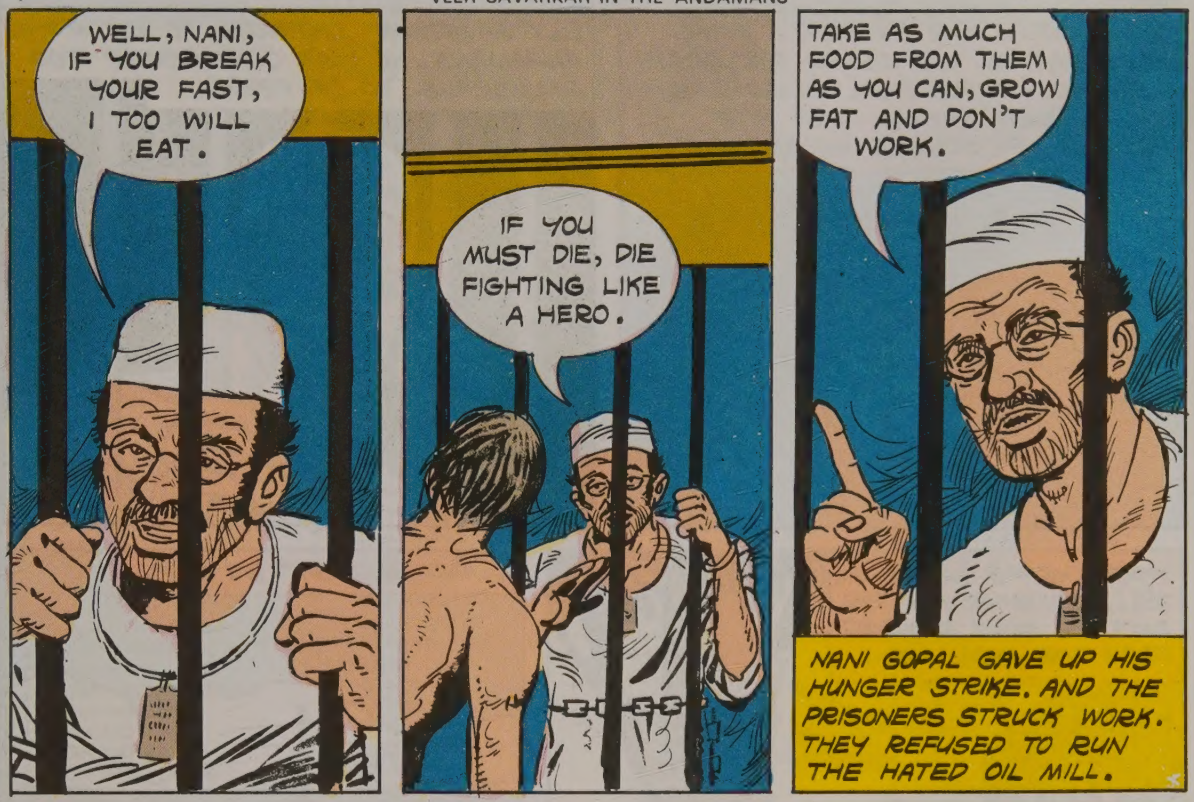

CRADDOCK WENT ROUND THE JAIL AND LATER HAD A TALK WITH SAVARKAR.
WE ARE MUCH KINDER THAN YOU REALISE MR. SAVARKAR. HAD YOU REVOLTED AGAINST YOUR RAJAS, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD YOU TRAMPLED BY ELEPHANTS.

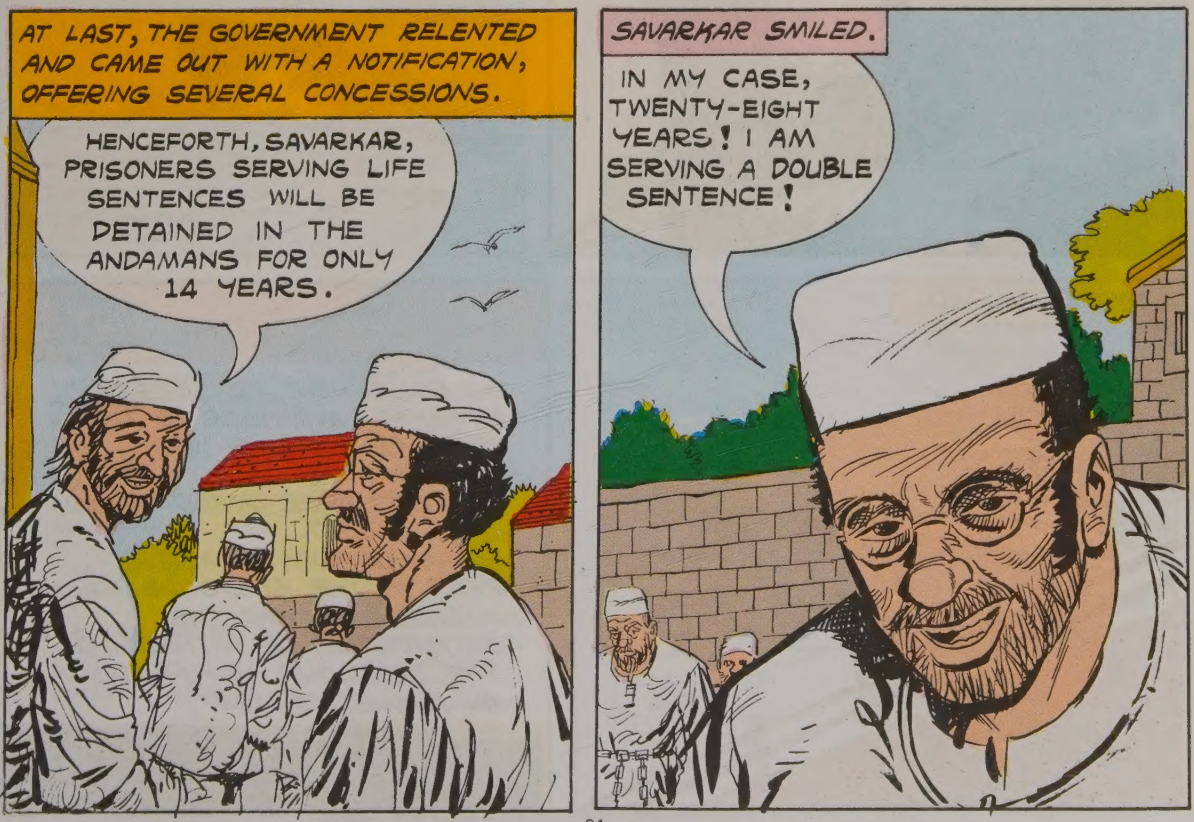
FOR THAT MATTER, IN THE DAYS YOU SPEAK OF, A MAN IN ENGLAND WOULD HAVE BEEN BEHEADED FOR COMMITTING A THEFT.


BESIDES, REBELS WERE NO DOUBT TRAMPLED UNDER AN ELEPHANT. BUT IF THE REBELS EMERGED VICTORIOUS THE KING WOULD LOSE HIS HEAD—AS IT HAPPENED TO YOUR OWN KING, CHARLES I.

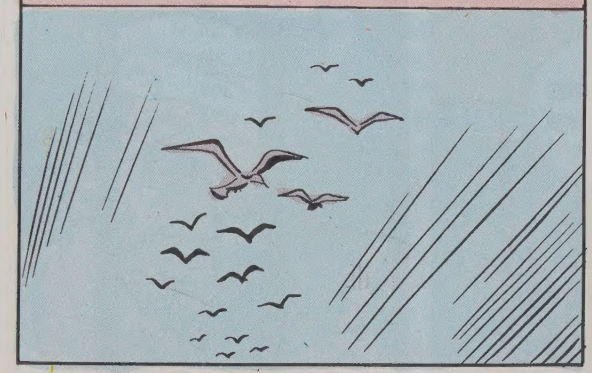

CRADDOCK WENT AWAY. NANI GOPAL CONTINUED WITH HIS HUNGER STRIKE.
NANI GOPAL IS ON THE VERGE OF DYING. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE HIM GIVE UP.


SAVARKAR HIMSELF WENT ON A HUNGER STRIKE.
SAVARKAR, I FEEL GUILTY THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN UP FOOD ON ACCOUNT OF ME.


WELL, NANI, IF YOU BREAK YOUR FAST, I TOO WILL EAT.
IF YOU MUST DIE, DIE FIGHTING LIKE A HERO.
TAKE AS MUCH FOOD FROM THEM AS YOU CAN, GROW FAT AND DON'T WORK.
NANI GOPAL GAVE UP HIS HUNGER STRIKE. AND THE PRISONERS STRUCK WORK. THEY REFUSED TO RUN THE HATED OIL MILL.

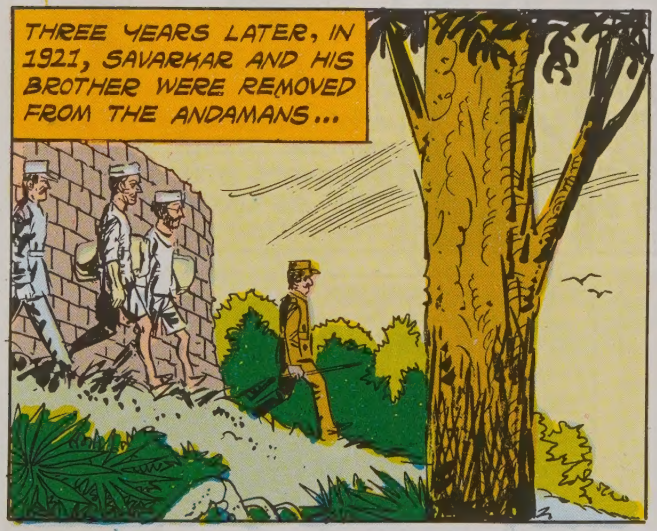

AT LAST, THE GOVERNMENT RELENTED AND CAME OUT WITH A NOTIFICATION, OFFERING SEVERAL CONCESSIONS.
HENCEFORTH, SAVARKAR, PRISONERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES WILL BE DETAINED IN THE ANDAMANS FOR ONLY 14 YEARS.
SAVARKAR SMILED.
IN MY CASE, TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS! I AM SERVING A DOUBLE SENTENCE!

AFTER WORLD WAR I ENDED, A ROYAL PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED DECLARING CLEMENCY TO POLITICAL PRISONERS. JAILS WERE THROWN OPEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS WALKED OUT.

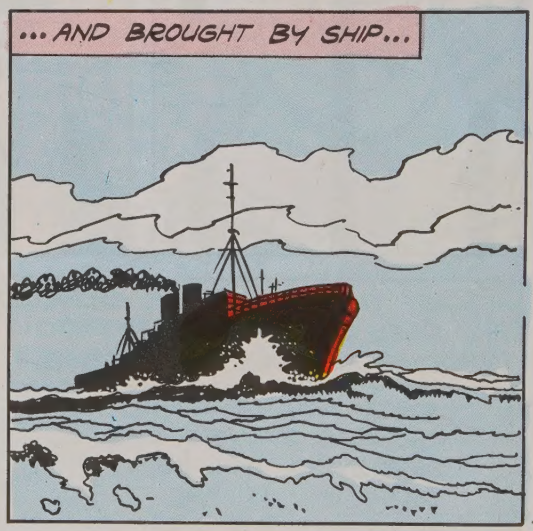


BUT SAVARKAR CONTINUED TO ROT IN THE ANDAMANS. HE WAS CONSIDERED TOO DANGEROUS TO BE FREED.

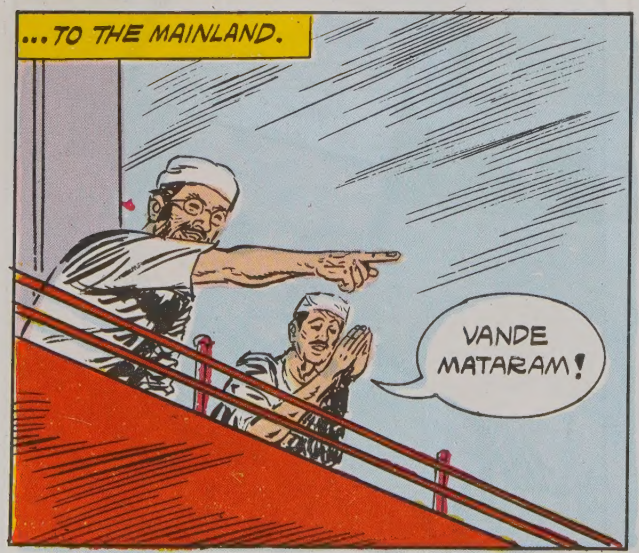
THREE YEARS LATER, IN 1921, SAVARKAR AND HIS BROTHER WERE REMOVED FROM THE ANDAMANS...



...AND BROUGHT BY SHIP...



...TO THE MAINLAND.



THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED SAVARKAR 'A DANGER TO THE PEACE OF INDIA'. HE WAS INTERNED AND WAS SET FREE UNCONDITIONALLY ONLY IN 1937. SAVARKAR TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. HE HAD THE SATISFACTION OF WITNESSING THE TRICOLOUR UNFURLED ON AUGUST 15, 1947.

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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ANIRUDDHA
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ASHWINI KUMARS
AYYAPPAN
BAHUBALI
BALARAMA, TALES OF
BHEEMA AND HANUMAN
BHEESHMA
CHANDRAHASA
CHURNING OF THE OCEAN
DASHARATHA
DHRUVA AND ASHTAVAKRA
DRAUPADI
DRONA
DURGA, TALES OF
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HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
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INDRA AND SHIBI
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KACHA AND DEVAYANI
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KARTTIKEYA
KRISHNA
KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA
KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI
KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA
KRISHNA AND THE FALSE VAASUDEVA
KUMBHAKARNA
LORD OF LANKA, THE
MAHABHARATA
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NAHUSHA
NALA DAMAYANTI
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PANDAVAS IN THE HIDING, THE
PRAHLAD
RAMA
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SATI AND SHIVA
SAVITRI
SHIVA PARVATI
SHIVA, TALES OF
SONS OF RAMA, THE
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BIRBAL THE JUST
BIRBAL THE WISE
BIRBAL THE WITTY
BIRBAL TO THE RESCUE
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CHANDRALALAT
COWHERD OF ALAWI, THE
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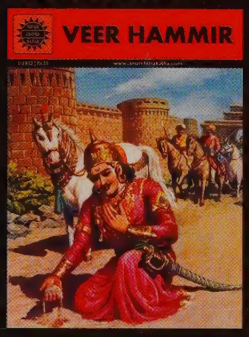

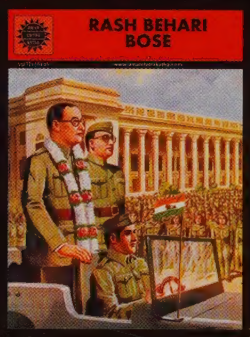

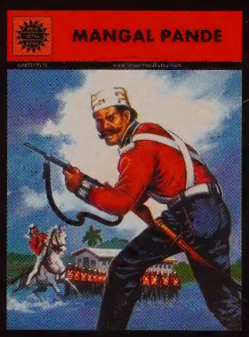

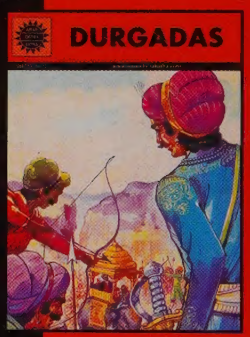

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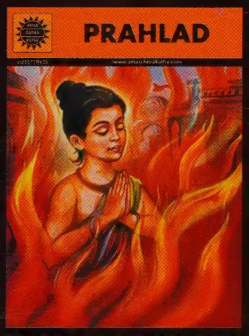

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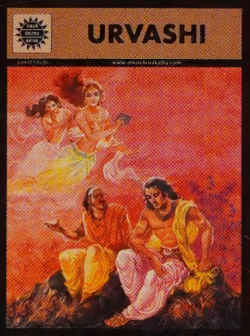

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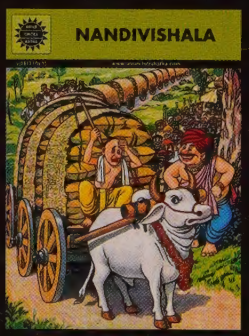

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